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JORDAN

THE TIMES

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Telecom to cut prices as communications duopoly ends

Lilley: decisions delighting Tory sell-off lobby

More competition, better services and cheaper calls are on their way in government moves to improve the telecommunications network, Philip Webster and Philip Bassett report

BRITAIN'S telephone system is to be opened up to wider competition in a move aimed at bringing cheaper phone calls for everyone and improved services. The telecommunications "duopoly" that allows only British Telecom and Mercury to supply services is to be scrapped, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, told MPs. Other firms will be able to run new telecommunications networks. The objective is to increase choice, promote enterprise and cut prices.

The government is looking to cable television companies to provide new services. In an announcement cheered loudly by Conservative MPs Mr Lilley said that British Telecom had agreed to cut its prices by 6.25 per cent a year in real terms. This compares with the old pricing formula which had allowed BT to raise charges by up to the rate of inflation, minus 4.5 per cent. Mr Lilley also said he wanted a start to cutting the price of international calls by 10 per cent "as soon as possible".

"Low users will pay only half the standard rental and they will get 30 free call units every quarter. Virtually everyone will now benefit from cheaper telephone calls," he said.

Mr Lilley's plans were set out in a white paper *Competition and choice: telecommunications policy for the 1990s*. He said: "In future the Government will consider all licence applications on their merits." His decision delighted the Tory right who are pressing for more privatisation in the Tory election manifesto. John Major is being urged by Conservative manifesto groups to sell off British Rail, British Coal and the Post Office in the next Conservative term.

Labour MPs, however, were critical. Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, said the policy was selective, inconsistent and would serve to benefit the interests of foreign cable companies moving into Britian. Mr Brown said the new curb on BT prices now included international calls as well as domestic calls. When that was taken into account domestic callers would be no better off.

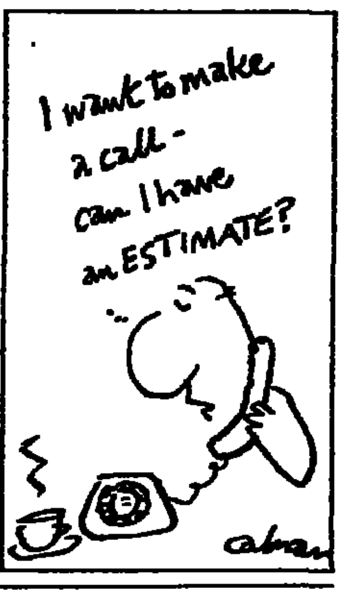
The changes proposed include the introduction of portable numbers, enabling customers to change their network without changing their number. Eventually the aim would be to allow customers to move home without changing their number.

Because many people, especially the elderly and disabled, use the telephone as a lifeline, the government does not want to see any increase in telephone standing charges leading to them being forced to give up the phone. People who do not make much use of their phones would have a rental set at half the standard level. BT will als provide low users with 30 free call units per quarter. This scheme should be in place this year.

In order not to deter people from getting telephones, BT intends to introduce a scheme to spread the payment of connection charges over a "reasonable" but as yet unspecified period. Mr Lilley said that all firms would benefit from the lower prices. "Those businesses that use the telephone most can expect to benefit from the volume discounts which BT will offer in the future.

"To help the cable companies realise their full potential, we have decided to let them provide telephone services in their own right rather than as an agent of BT or Mercury. They will now be able to provide a complete package to the customer."

Local calls, page 2
Leading article, page 15
Duopoly to end, page 25
Defeat for BT, page 27


I want to make a call - can I have an ESTIMATE?

Iraqi mission to Iran as rebels claim six towns

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, and Our Foreign Staff

AS FIERCE fighting raged through a broad swath of Iraq yesterday, Sadoun Hammadi, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, arrived unexpectedly in Iran with a message from President Saddam Hussein.

His visit came as Iraq formally renounced its claim to Kuwait and said it was returning all property taken from the emirate.

Mr Hammadi's visit came "without advance notice", the Iranian news agency, Irna, said. He was accompanied by Muhammad Said al-Sahaf, the foreign minister, prompting speculation that Baghdad is appealing to Tehran not to help the uprising.

John Major flies to the Gulf today from talks in Moscow with President Gorbachev. He will become the first leader of the allied coalition to enter the liberated Kuwait City, where an indefinite 10pm-4am curfew was imposed yesterday. Despite sporadic outbursts of violence as armed bands of resistance fighters pay off scores with suspected collaborators, Mr Major intends to see for himself the devastation of the rescued city.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, is also beginning a ten-day tour of the Middle East tomorrow to try to resuscitate the Arab-Israeli peace process. David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, had talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on this in London yesterday.

Baghdad radio said yesterday that Iraq had decided to return all property seized after its invasion of Kuwait, and renounced its claim to the emirate. Iraq's foreign ministry was instructed to inform the UN of the decision.

The move appeared to be an attempt by the battered Saddam regime to comply quickly with all the UN resolutions so as not to give the allied forces still in Iraq any excuse to intervene in the uprising or support the rebellion. On Monday Baghdad radio accused the allies of conducting a "conspiracy" to destabilise the country.

Rebels claimed to have captured six towns in the south, and said they were still holding Basra, Iraq's second city, despite a strong counterattack by the Republican Guard and other forces loyal to Saddam. Muhammad al-Haidari, a member of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said in Beirut that hundreds of people had been killed or wounded in Basra and in the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf. He said Najaf was in the hands of the rebels.

However, fierce fighting appeared to be continuing in Basra yesterday. Hojatoleslam Haidari said resistance forces "stood forcefully against two army brigades and stopped their advance towards Basra". The London office of the supreme assembly said it had confirmation that the governor, the police chief in Basra and 17 army officers had been killed. A spokesman said units of the Republican Guard were stationed 13 miles outside the city, and were shelling Basra.

Refugees reaching the Iraqi border town of Safwan, most of them Kuwaitis trying to get home, said demonstrators were also marching in the southern Iraqi cities of Nasiriyah, Shutra, Suq ash-Shuyukh, Amarah, Samawah and Kut. In some places, they said, Iraqi troops were shooting women and children.

Hojatoleslam Haidar said in Beirut that his group would not impose an Islamic regime in post-Saddam Iraq. But Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, a former Iranian president, said in Paris that Tehran was encouraging an Islamic fundamentalist upheaval. He said the United States would not help democracy in the Middle East if it encouraged the revolt.

The Bush administration said it believed there was anti-government unrest in up to nine Iraqi cities. Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, disclosed that Baghdad radio and the Iraqi News Agency, INA, had gone off the air for an hour yesterday morning. This was an "unusual development". On Monday the State Department said up to six Iraqi towns and cities were affected, so yesterday's information suggested the unrest was spreading.

Peace force, page 8
Hit list, page 9
Fighting talk, page 11
Devil they know, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Letters, page 15
Hollywood at war, page 20

Pleased to meet you: President Gorbachev greeting John Major at the Kremlin yesterday

Nine Britons freed as Baghdad releases PoWs

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

NINE British prisoners of war were among the 35 handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad yesterday. Iraq has now claimed that it has freed all allied prisoners.

The Ministry of Defence said: "We have been informed that there are no other prisoners of war." In Washington, there was cautious optimism that all American prisoners had been released.

However, there was still no sign of a release of the thousands of Kuwaiti citizens believed to have been taken to Baghdad. Doubts also remained over the whereabouts of special forces' personnel, who may have been captured but whose names have not been officially released.

In the MoD's official list of servicemen missing in action, 12 pilots and navigators are named. But in the first batch of 10 allied prisoners released on Monday, two of the three Britons freed were soldiers who had not been previously listed as missing.

The two men were thought to have been involved in operations behind Iraqi lines. Other British special forces' personnel are also thought to have been captured.

Of the 35 allied prisoners freed yesterday, 15 were Americans, nine Britons, nine Saudi Arabians, one Kuwaiti and one Italian. Andreas Gnaedinger, the chief Red Cross representative for the Middle East, said: "They all looked very happy to me."

The MoD said that the names of the Britons would not be released until their next of kin had been informed. Plans to fly them immediately to Saudi Arabia, in the same planes the Red Cross would use to deliver 294 Iraqi prisoners held by the allies, were delayed by poor weather conditions in Baghdad. An American official in Riyadh said: "The planes are ready, the prisoners are ready. The problem is the weather in Baghdad. The winds are tremendous."

The White House yesterday cautiously welcomed the report that Iraq had completed the release of its prisoners of war. "We are hoping it is all of them that's left, but we don't know," Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman said. General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he was "reasonably confident" that all American prisoners would be freed.

He said: "They (Iraqis) have been forthcoming in their conversations with us. I think they are anxious to resolve this matter so I am comfortable we will get all of the PoWs out that they are holding."

Mr Gnaedinger said the Red Cross was still trying to establish how many Kuwaitis were being held in Iraq. Kuwaiti officials had said Iraq was holding 22,000 civilians.

The Red Cross is also seeking news of the fate of 27 Western journalists from Kuwait reported missing since Sunday near Basra.

Reporters missing, page 8

McMahon quits after Midland cut

SIR Peter Walters, the former chairman of British Petroleum, is to become chairman of the Midland Bank after the departure was announced yesterday of Sir Kit McMahon (Neil Bennett writes).

Sir Kit resigned as chairman and chief executive of Midland after it became the first British bank in 50 years to cut its dividend. It became apparent yesterday that Sir Kit sought the help of the Bank of England in January to find a successor after the failure to complete merger talks with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in December. The Bank of England suggested Brian Pearse, finance director at Barclays Bank, who will take over as chief executive at Midland today.

Sir Kit, aged 63, is entitled to a golden handshake approaching £700,000 for stepping down but Midland will not comment on how much he will be collecting.

Sir Peter was widely tipped to become the chairman of the National Westminster Bank at the time of his retirement from BP but was beaten to the post by Lord Alexander, the former chairman of the City takeover panel.

Business news, page 25
Comment, page 27

A burst of friendly fire from Sir Kingsley

Amis: "Loath to receive as good as he gave"

By Joe Joseph

WHEN Mavis Nicholson led the loyal toast at yesterday's Foyles literary lunch in honour of Sir Kingsley Amis and raised her glass to "The Queen!", one thought one heard a voice at the top table add, "and all who dream of her".

Sir Kingsley is shy neither of admitting that he dreams of the Queen and Mrs Thatcher, or of defending his spiky asides about former friends who might not have twigged that failing to buy Amis a drink might later earn them a poisoned paragraph in his newly published *Memoirs*.

Awkwardly, some of the men Amis has lambasted now say that they have never met him. Scanning a wine list before lunch and advising an attentive young lady that "I think we'd better have Krug", while despatching another off to get a refill before the lunch gong rang ("Whoops, I'm in danger of missing my second whisky"), Sir Kingsley accused his victims of having faulty and selective memories. "Remember how Henry V forgot Falstaff – '*I know thee not old man*' – because it was too embarrassing to remember him?"

Sir Kingsley also seemed loath to receive as good as he gave. Mrs Nicholson – one of Amis *père's* former English lit students and once babysitter to the young Amis *fils* – informed the guests that she had wanted to give a short welcoming speech yesterday but was told by Amis that "you can't just give me a short speech. I want you to say lots of wonderful things about me". Sir Kingsley sat beside her shaking his head furiously, eyes popping in theatrical indignation, like an MP on *Question Time* whose remarks have been misconstrued by another speaker.

When it was Sir Kingsley's turn to speak, it was clear he had been hurt by the vitriolic write-ups he has received in some newspapers ("Sir Kingsley, one feels, sat down to his memoirs badly in need of a drink", wrote one reviewer. Another described *Memoirs* as a catastrophe) and was irritated by suggestions that he had dipped his ink in anecdotal poison only because his literary juices had run dry. Sir Kingsley snapped that he had a short novel coming out in the autumn and a fuller one later.

Why had he written *Memoirs*? Mainly to record some anecdotes: "quite a few, I thought, were too good to be lost. It was clear from the start that I wasn't going to write the story of my life. Too boring."

No, said Sir Kingsley. "It is when chaps are behaving less than well that they are at their most interesting. Who wants to read about Malcolm Muggeridge giving away prizes at some

Continued on page 24, col 5

INSIDE

Heathrow open to all

Landing slots at Heathrow airport, London, are to be thrown open to the highest bidder in a decision which brought the government criticism from some airlines and *from MPs on both sides of the* House. It also brought a promise from Richard Branson that he would cut transatlantic fares on Virgin Airways by 15 per cent .... Page 24

Poll upset

The Liberal Democrats appeared to be close to achieving a by-election upset after an opinion poll indicated that they could beat the Conservatives in the Ribble Valley ballot tomorrow .... Page 2

Teacher shot

A history master was reported to be in a serious condition after being shot during lessons at an independent school in Bristol. A boy was being questioned by police ... Page 2

Orkney order

A children's panel at Kirkwall, Orkney, ordered that nine children at the centre of ritual sexual abuse claims be kept in care for a further 21 days after a hearing was given details of the allegations.............. Page 5

Change of code

Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain rugby league captain, has signed to play American football for the newly formed London Monarchs..... Page 42

Accountancy exams

Results of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants' examination are published today .... Page 37

INDEX

Arts..............................20-22
Births, marriages, deaths ... 17
Classified 17,31-36
Court & social 16
Crosswords.................... 17,24
Law Report 37
Leading articles................. 15
Letters 15
Life and Times 18,19
Media 13
Obituaries........................ 16
TV & radio 23
Weather........................... 24

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'Dalek' hunt as kidnap wife is freed

By Peter Victor

THE wife of a millionaire was freed yesterday after a five-day kidnap ordeal during which she was kept in chains.

Margaret Smith, aged 49, who was held in an unfurnished room, said she had failed to attract a passing milkman's attention on Monday morning and thought "trust me to get a deaf one".

Mrs Smith was rescued early yesterday when two passing milkmen did hear her screams for help from a flat above a shop in Old High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and alerted police. "I would like to say thank you to the police for getting me here, but mostly I have to thank the milkman," she told a news conference.

Hertfordshire police admitted last night that they had been alerted five days ago to reports that a woman had been heard crying for help near the flat where Mrs Smith was found. Officers went to a property near by and reported it empty.

Kairin Patel, who runs a newsagents in the Old High Street, said two boys playing outside her shop on Friday heard a woman crying and called police. David Cansdale, assistant chief constable of Hertfordshire, said: "The matter is being looked into by a senior officer as a matter of urgency." He said that the premises checked by the officers were not those in which Mrs Smith was being held.

Mrs Smith was yesterday reunited with her husband Roger, aged 51, chairman of the motor dealership Trimoco and deputy chairman of Luton Town football club, and their three children after being examined by a doctor.

A man was taken into custody by armed police shortly after Mrs Smith was freed. The arrest signalled the end of a five-day news blackout. For the previous four days police had tried to ensure that Mrs Smith came to no harm while they attempted to trace a man they nicknamed "The Dalek". All telephone calls to the Smiths' home from the kidnapper were disguised using an electronic voice

Mrs Smith was kidnapped at about mid-day last Thursday. She and her husband had been due to attend a charity dinner at the Savoy Hotel. When he returned from work at 3.45pm, however, there was no sign of her.

She had missed a hairdresser's appointment and her purse was lying on the floor. Mr Smith received a call on the family's ex-directory number at 5.50pm. A voice said: "11 o'clock". That time passed without a call. Mr Smith contacted the police.

After five days sitting cross legged on a bare floor in an unfurnished and uncarpeted room and bound by chains Mrs Smith was heard shouting for help by Bert Boyle, a milkman. He called the police who arrived at the scene to

Continued on page 24 col 2

Milkman's alarm, page 3

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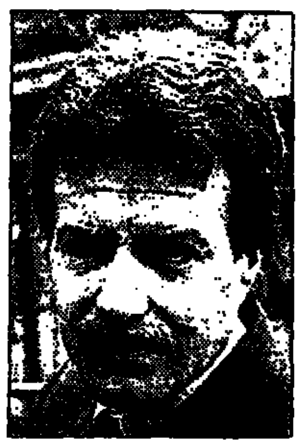
Democrat's by-election taxation comment delights Tories



Carr: comments seen as first campaign slip

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrat candidate in the Ribble Valley by-election yesterday admitted that the average breadwinner would face a bill of about £600 a year under his party's plans for a local income tax in place of the poll tax.

This is about £250 more than this year's community charge in the area and the Conservatives were quick to pounce on what they regarded as the first slip in their main challenger's campaign.

Nigel Evans, who is defending a 19,500 majority in the largely rural north Lancashire seat, said the figures showed that giving councils power over tax levels would be a diaster. The Tories feel that the disclosures about the likely impact of the Liberal Democrat formula for local taxation seem likely to check the advance of an electoral bandwagon that has been gathering speed since the weekend. The Tories plan to exploit them over the final hours of campaigning.

An opinion poll published last night underlined the threat Mike Carr now poses to Mr Evans' chances of retaining the tenth safest Tory seat in the country. The survey for the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* suggested that the Liberal Democrats have brushed aside Labour and are within hailing distance of the Conservatives. It showed a big shift in support since a survey for the same newspaper carried out at the start of the campaign. The figures for the three main parties were: Conservatives 39 per cent (down 5), Liberal Democrats 24 per cent (up 10) and Labour 16 per cent (down 9).

Both polls were carried out by college students and the methodology is open to criticism. However, the latest findings will have a big impact locally and will help the centre party in its attempt to persuade Labour supporters to vote tactically to stop Mr Evans.

The Liberal Democrats also released canvass figures yesterday, a notoriously unreliable guide, putting them five points behind the Tories.

On his first visit to the constituency yesterday, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, was telling voters that a defeat for the Tories would kill the poll tax stone-dead. The inscription on its tombstone would be "killed in Clitheroe". Tory jitters surfaced in an attempt by Mr Evans to talk up the Labour vote. He said it had a solid block of support which would be swayed into tactical voting.

The indications of the likely effect of a local income tax in Ribble Valley came after Mr Carr's statement at a public meeting some days ago that the rate for the eastern half of the constituency would have to be 5.6p in the pound to raise the necessary revenue.

The Conservatives who have been forced onto the defensive by big increases in local poll tax bills, counter-attacked. Mr Evans said that the bill for a police constable married to a teacher, with a daughter working as a junior nurse, would be more than £1,900. At his morning press conference, Mr Carr accepted that a bill of £550 to £600 was probably right for the average tax payer. "It does not take a mathematical genius to calculate that. But if you are not an income tax payer, you won't pay it.

Mr Evans said: "After weeks of waiting the Liberal Democrats have finally given us a figure for their local income tax. The averge earner in this constituency would pay more in local income tax than he would in poll tax. That's bad enough but for two-earner couples it would be a disaster."

General Election 1987: D Waddington (C) 30,136 60.9 percent; M Carr (SDP All) 10,608, 21.4 percent; G Pope (Lab) 8,781, 17.7 percent. C Maj 19,528.

Treasury may step in to halt big cut in armed services

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury is expected to bail out the Ministry of Defence with a substantial amount of extra money to save the three armed services from having to make huge cuts in the next financial year to meet a diminishing budget, according to Whitehall sources yesterday.

The government will cite Operation Granby, Britain's war effort in the Gulf, as the reason for the temporary boost to the defence budget. Even though part of the cost of the war will be met by Germany, Japan, Kuwait and other countries, the cash available for the 1991/2 defence budget will not meet demands. "We're basically starting off the new financial year in a state of bankruptcy," one Whitehall source said.

The "options for change" defence review, which was supposed to reshape Britain's forces and produce substantial savings in the longer term, has been put on hold to give time for the defence ministry to assess the lessons learned from the war with Iraq.

There is, however, a growing belief that the government will be unable to carry out plans already announced, including a reduction in the army to about 120,000 men and women, unless Britain is to opt out of any future Gulf-type conflict. Whitehall officials stressed that if the army had been reduced to 120,000 before the Gulf war began, Britain would not have been able to send an armoured division to Saudi Arabia.

Part of the options for change review focused on the likely expansion of reserve forces. But in the Gulf war, government ministers showed extreme reluctance to turn to reserves, Whitehall sources said. Since the end of the Cold War, Britain has assumed there would be at least 90 days in which to respond to a developing East/West conflict in central Europe, with the deployment of reinforcements, including reserves, to Germany.

Yet during the Gulf conflict, ministers did not even consider a call-up of reserves until well after 90 days had passed since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, the sources said. Even then, the reserves had to be asked if they wanted to volunteer before they were sent call-up papers.

Sources said that if members of the Territorial Army had been sent to the Gulf, they would have fitted in well with the regular troops. Because of the reluctance to use reserves, except in the medical field, the 27,000 men sent to the Gulf, as part of the 1st Armoured Division, all had to come from the British Army of the Rhine, reducing its presence in Germany by half. As a precaution, reserve units were put on standby to go to Saudi Arabia from the very beginning of the confrontation with Iraq. They were never sent.

The options for change review will now take place under a different set of circumstances. Britain is expected to send military assistance teams to the Gulf states and possibly Kuwait to provide training. The Whitehall sources said that if ministers persisted with the pevious plan to cut the army to 120,000, however, even this proposal would be difficult to fulfill. There would not be sufficient manpower.

The government, meanwhile, would have to abandon the idea of a "peace dividend" for the foreseeable future. Extra Treasury money would be needed to prop up the defence budget, the sources said, and to help resupply the forces once they returned to Germany from the Gulf.

One positive aspect now under consideration is the possibility of carrying out training exercises in the Gulf region. With large-scale training becoming more difficult in Germany, the open desert areas of Saudi Arabia are being seen as ideal training grounds.

Security call after latest IRA bombing

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FURTHER review of security was needed at the Shorts Brothers aerospace complex in east Belfast, the armed forces minister said yesterday.

Archie Hamilton, on a brief visit to Northern Ireland, was speaking after an IRA bomb exploded in a technical drawing office at 8am as workers were being evacuated following a warning call to the Samaritans.

The bomb, thought to weigh 5lb, caused slight damage and no one was injured. There have been several security reviews at the plant in the past year. Peter Robinson, MP for east Belfast, said that the company's vetting system must also be reviewed. The company employs 7,000, almost all of them Protestants.

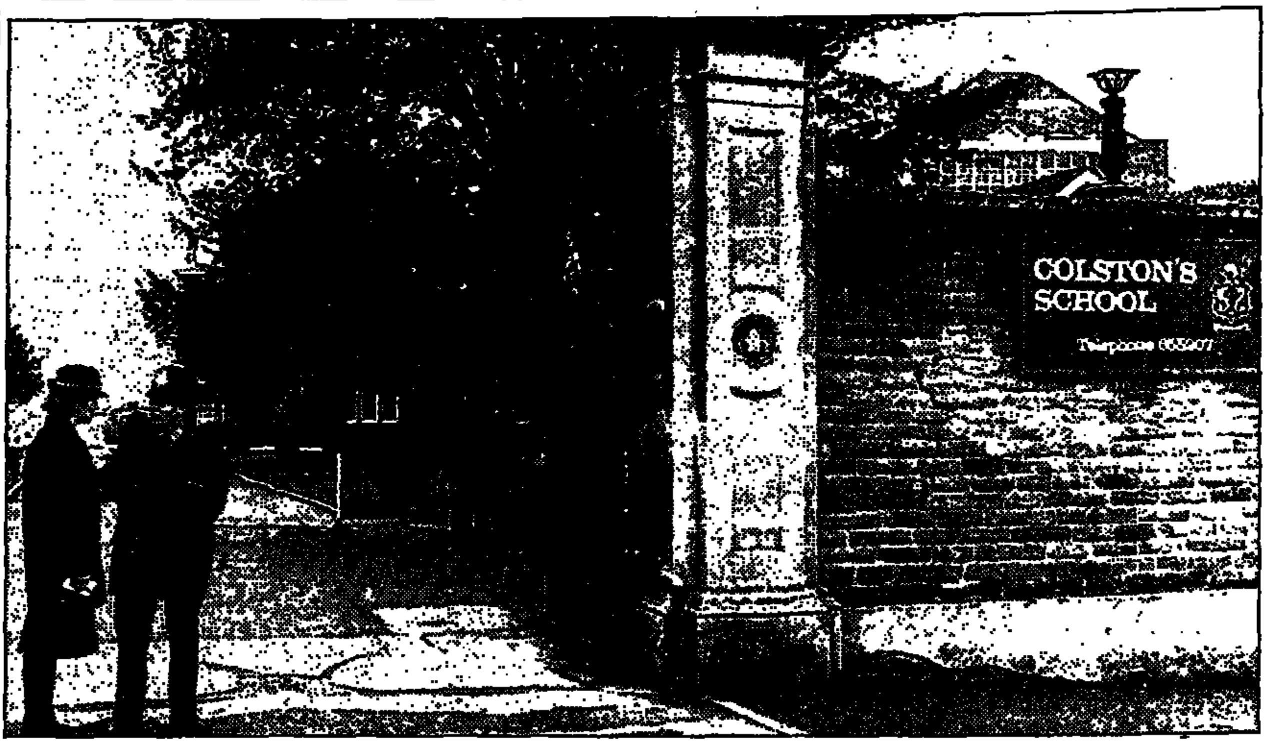
The attack is the fifth by the IRA on Shorts in two years. The IRA regards the plant as a legitimate target because it is a big employer of Protestants and because it carries out government defence contracts.

Yesterday's bombing followed a weekend during which loyalist paramilitaries killed five people and seriously wounded another. They killed four Roman Catholics at a public house in Cappagh, co Tyrone, on Sunday night and a taxi driver in Belfast on Monday.

Detectives have established a definite link between the pub killings and seven previous murders, it was learnt last night. Two rifles used by the killers were also used in the murders of other Catholics over the past two years.

Meanwhile, it was announced yesterday that an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier has died from his wounds sustained in an IRA mortar attack on a patrol near Armagh City on Friday in which one other soldier died at the scene. A third remains seriously ill in hospital.

The spate of killings by loyalists has led to claims that a maverick unit operating outside the aegis of the two main Protestant paramilitary groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Freedom Fighters, might be responsible. Cecil Walker, Ulster Unionist MP for north Belfast, said that his investigations had convinced him there was a breakaway group at work. However, security sources have dismissed the claims, and pointed out that recent reorganisations within loyalist groups creating a cell structure similar to that practised by the IRA was making it more difficult to identify gunmen and bring them to justice.



Policemen standing guard outside Colston's school after the shooting yesterday of teacher Roderic Findlay, below

Teacher shot in classroom attack

By CRAIG SETON

A TEACHER at a private school was shot and seriously wounded yesterday when a boy entered the class where he was teaching 20 children and opened fire with a shotgun.

The shooting happened yesterday morning at the 300-pupil Colston's school, Stapleton, Bristol. Roderic Findlay, aged 49, a history master, collapsed with gunshot injuries to his chest and arm during the attack and was later reported to be in a serious condition at the city's Frenchay hospital after emergency surgery. No one else was injured.

Avon and Somerset police said that several shots had been fired in the school building and on the campus. It is believed that David Pincott, the deputy headmaster, had to jump out of the way of one of the shots. Police sealed off the school grounds and, during a search, a boy was taken into custody after giving himself up to a dog handler. Two shotguns were later recovered.

A police spokesman said detectives were investigating the motive for the attack and added: "The master was teaching a class of 20 pupils at the time. Many of the children were shocked, but otherwise unhurt." John Mason, an assistant bursar at the £6,600-a-year boarding school, said no immediate statement would be made.

Last night a boy was being questioned by detectives at the city's St George police station.

Insurers keep Aids questions

An explosion of Aids or HIV infection among heterosexuals in Britain is unlikely on the basis of current evidence, according to the Institute of Actuaries.

Most cases of HIV infection last year were among homosexual men, and insurance companies should continue to question individuals about their sexual lifestyles, an institute bulletin says.

"Despite the undisputed growth in heterosexual cases, the evidence to support the hypothesis of a 'heterosexual explosion' of Aids cases is as yet equivocal," it says.

Murder charge

Peter Burke, aged 54, a former teacher from Galway, appeared in the special criminal court in Dublin yesterday charged with the murder of Jerome O'Connor, aged 58, who was shot dead when he left a Galway bank in 1974. Burke, who jumped bail before his trial 17 years ago, was arrested in Galway on Saturday. He was yesterday remanded in custody until March 19.

Police bailed

Three detectives involved in questioning the Guildford Four. were remanded on bail in their absence by Bow Street magistrates' court in London yesterday afternoon charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice. The three, all from Surrey, are former Detective Chief Inspector Thomas Style, former Detective Sergeant John Donaldson and Detective Constable Vernon Atwell.

Exmoor enquiry

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has called a public enquiry into plans to build a house on national park land at Exmoor a few miles from a thatched cottage that he owns and uses as a country retreat. Mr Heseltine was reported to have declared an interest, but John Milton, chairman of Exmoor national park committee, said yesterday that it was pure chance that he had a house nearby.

Dearer funerals

Cremation costs will rise because of stricter environmental controls, the National Association of Funeral Directors was told yesterday. Peter Wilson, of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities, said many crematoria will have to replace incinerators and carry out extensive building alterations.

Bristol increases poll tax by £99

By RAY CLANCY

BRISTOL and Birmingham were last night the latest councils to join the last-minute rush to set this year's poll tax before the Sunday deadline, as anti-poll tax protesters revealed plans for a second mass demonstration.

Heated debates accompanied the decisions, with Bristol increasing its figure by almost £100 and Birmingham trying to keep its charge down to avoid capping. Meanwhile, Liverpool councillors face a tough debate today as town hall workers threaten to strike for 24 hours in protest at plans to axe 1,500 jobs in a bid to keep the poll tax down.

Labour-controlled Bristol last night set a poll tax of £524, up £99 on last year's, despite agreeing a lower budget than had been expected. By Sunday's deadline, the full picture of the second year of the tax in England and Wales should have emerged, with many councils increasing the charge.

In Bristol, councillors debated an overall budget of £59.4 million compared with £56.6 million in 1990/91 and a standstill proposed spending plan of £67 million.

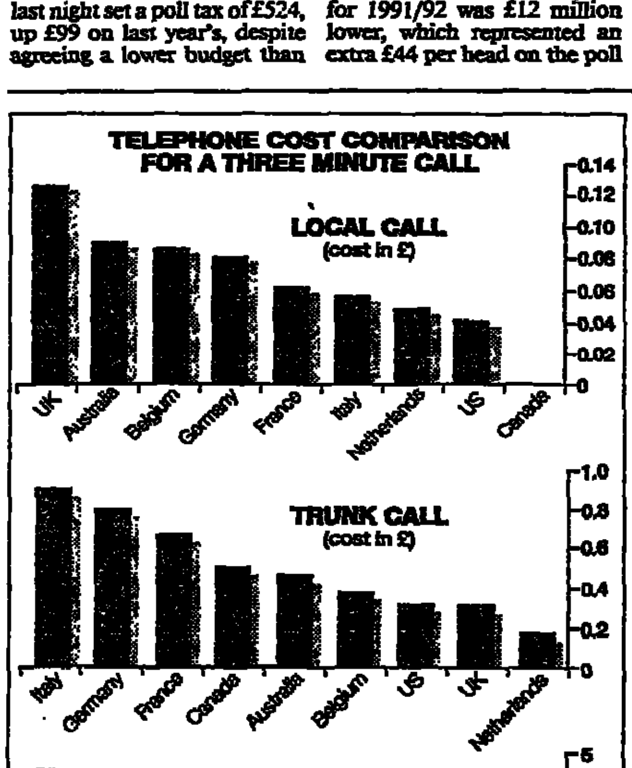
A cut in Bristol's grant from the government, higher non-payment figures than had been estimated and a larger contribution to county spending accounted for most of the proposed £99 per head rise in poll tax. A council spokesman said that the government grant for 1991/92 was £12 million lower, which represented an extra £44 per head on the poll tax, and an additional £21 million contribution to county services put £62 on the poll tax. On top of this, the council had underestimated non-payment, which would add £43.

The decision to spend £3 million more on services than last year added £7 to the charge, giving a total of £156 a head, which was reduced to an overall extra £99 by revenue from the business rate amounting to £57 per head.

Liverpool city council meets today to try to set its poll tax. Most of the authoritiy's 29,000 workers are expected to take part in a one-day strike in protest at the ruling Labour group's proposal to cut 1,500 jobs in a package aimed at saving £23 million. Labour is spilt over the plans.

Birmingham's Labour-run city council was expected to set a poll tax rate of £406 at a budget meeting last night.

Organisers of the national anti-poll tax demonstration in London later this month said yesterday there would be no repeat of last year's riots. Steve Nally, secretary of the all-Britain anti-poll tax federation, predicted at a Westminster press conference that between 50,000 and 100,000 people would take part. Organisers have had talks with police about arrangements for the demonstration on March 23. He said the federation would ensure the poll tax was the main issue at any forthcoming election.



Source: National Utility Services Ltd

Britain rings up dearest local calls

By ALICE THOMSON

LOCAL telephone calls are more expensive in Britain than in any other major industrialised nation, according to a new survey. While the majority of UK charges remain competitive, the survey shows British consumers to be at a distinct disadvantage when calling locally.

A local call in Britain costs twice as much as a call of the same duration in France, Italy or the Netherlands. A three-minute local call in Britain will cost 12p, while it costs 4p in America and in Canada local calls are free.

A local telex in Britain conversely costs only 10p, the lowest of any industrialised nation and 12 times less than a local telex in America which will cost £1.28. International telexes are also cheaper from Britain than anywhere other than Canada. An international telex from Italy to New York will cost £4.04 while in Britain it will cost only £1.70.

Britain also fares well on trunk telephone calls over 200 miles. Italy is now the most expensive country from which to make a trunk call and costs 91p for a three-minute call. In Britain a three-minute trunk call costs 33p.

The survey was conducted by National Utility Services which monitors changes around the world. A spokesman for British Telecom said: "It is very difficult to make international comparisons for local calls as the areas differ in size. The London area is the largest area in the world in terms of the number of people able to call each other for the price of a local call. A fifth of all our customers are in London, so we are really giving very good value for money."

Duopoly broken, page 1
Leading article, page 15
Business News, page 25

Polished touch to Milan line

From LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR, IN MILAN

THE tough commercial edge that Italian designers succeed in giving to even the wildest of design ideas is always an impressive phenomenon at the Milan shows. The skirts can be micro short and the cut flamboyant but the "made in Italy" labels inside assure a polished product that consistently sells worldwide.

At the Genny show yesterday colourful abstract plaids and dogtooth checks on every scale from small to rottweiler size were the theme. In tweed and Jersey in every colour from straight black and white to vivid pink with red they add sharpness to the label's simple style.

There was no particular new line in the swing coats and belted trench coats worn over suits, but colours looked new. Chestnut brown leather and caramel silk coats are lined with fiery orange. Acid green faced in red and green checks match the tweed of the suit underneath. The cut is curvy and the evening dresses are sensuous columns of black crepe that might be expected from a collection of which Gianni Versace is design consultant.

Legal move to end school dispute

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE governors of a church school in south Wales are taking legal advice to help to resolve a dispute which has set them in serious conflict with the teachers and headmaster.

The governors overturned the headmaster's decision to expel or "exclude" three boys who allegedly assaulted a girl pupil and instead suspended them for four weeks. Teachers at the 1,100-pupil Bishop of Llandaff high school in Cardiff are now refusing to teach the boys.

The president of the National Association of of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers yesterday addressed his members at the school and backed them in their stand. Dan Roberts, the National Union of Teachers regional secretary for Wales, said a ballot among his members at the school had resulted in a unanimous vote not to teach or supervise the boys.

The boys, all in their mid-teens, returned to school last week after the half-term break. They are being kept in isolation and being given personal tuition in the headmaster's study.

Teachers belonging to two of the school's four unions held a strike last Friday, disrupting lessons for nearly half the pupils. Local police have investigated the alleged assault and papers were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, which recommended no further action.

The alleged assault took place in January. The girl took an extended holiday after the half-term break and returned on Monday. The teachers are demanding that the boys should not be allowed to return to classes, some of which they share with the girl. They are also calling for the decision of the headmaster, Dr Leonard Parfitt, to be upheld.

The Dean of Llandaff, the Very Rev Alun Davies, chairman of the governors, said that after the headmaster's decision to exclude the boys, a sub-committee of the governors had looked carefully at the evidence and had heard from the boys' parents. "In the light of the information put before them, they decided that the permanent exclusion should become an exclusion for four weeks," he said.

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هكذا من الأهل

Husband ready with £250,000 ransom - then milkman raises alarm after hearing cry from flat

Kidnap wife freed after five-day captivity in chains

By Peter Victor

MARGARET Smith, wife of a millionaire businessman, who was kidnapped and held in chains for nearly five days, was reunited with her family yesterday. Mrs Smith, aged 49, was taken from her home at Markyate, Hertfordshire, last Thursday.

She was found yesterday morning when a milkman heard her shouting from a third-floor flat above a shop in Hemel Hempstead high street. A man was arrested shortly afterwards by armed police officers ending a five-day news blackout.

Mrs Smith was back with her husband Roger, aged 51, chairman of the motor dealer group Trimoco and deputy chairman of Luton Town football club. Mr Smith, who discovered his wife had been kidnapped from their home last Thursday, had obeyed the kidnapper's instructions to get £250,000 in cash. But the ransom was not paid.

Mrs Smith said after her release that she had had absolute faith in her husband and had known that he would be doing everything he could to secure her release. "I had every confidence in him and the family and our friends. We're surrounded by love always and I know that whatever happened they would get me out safe and sound.

"I want to say my thanks to the police but mostly I have to thank the milkman who heard me. When I screamed this morning he said: 'Where are you?'. I said 'I'm here!'. He went to the police and here I am safe."

Mrs Smith said she had prayed every day. She said it was hard to recollect her thoughts while she was being held. "At the time I suppose I thought, will this never end? What have I done to deserve it? But, somehow, I must be a pretty strong character, I'm out of it safe and sound." She looked remarkably well.

Her son Ian thanked the police who had stayed at the family home during the kidnapping. Roger Smith added his thanks: "It's obviously a brilliant day for us to have Maggie back. What pleases me particularly is that it is not only a brilliant success for us as a family it's also a brilliant text-book success for the police. The whole thing has worked fantastically.

"Thank you to the press also for playing the game by the rules and paying attention to the embargo. Thank you for that and it's a brilliant day an end to a harrowing period but the right outcome."

Assistant Chief Constable David Cansdale said the police had been prepared to allow Mr Smith to pay the ransom as the first priority had been to ensure that Mrs Smith was safe: "She was our first priority, second was subsequently catching the kidnapper and then attempting to recover the ransom." Detectives are now trying to find out whether anyone else was involved in the kidnapping.

Yesterday evening the milkman who freed Mrs Smith recalled his part in the drama. Bert Boyce said: "I am no hero. I don't feel heroic. A hero is someone who saves someone's life. I did what anyone would have done.

"We heard this woman calling out: 'Help me, help me.' I wondered where it was coming from. I looked up and a light went on in the flat. I thought it was a bit strange." Mr Boyce shouted out to ask where she was and Mrs Smith replied: "Up here."

Mr Boyce said he was surprised no one heard Mrs Smith's cries earlier. He did not hear anything while delivering on previous days.

Bert Boyce, the milkman who raised the alarm that freed Mrs Smith, and the flat where she was held

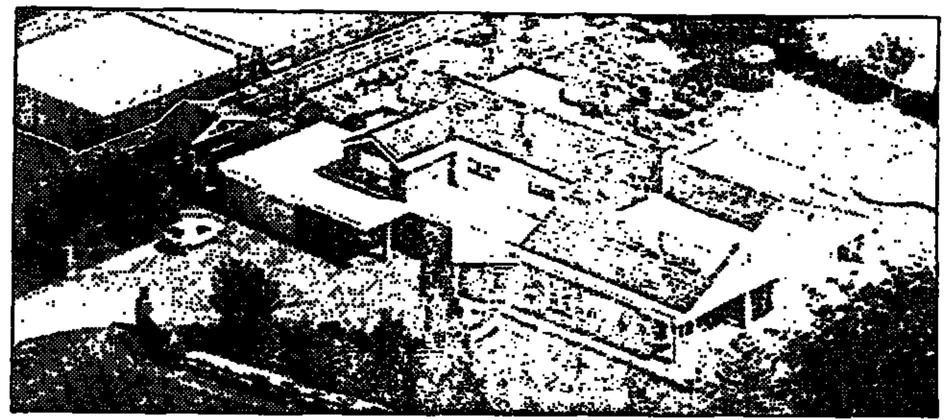
Bolt cutters used to sever shackles

THE chronology of Mrs Smith's kidnap was:

Thursday, February 28:
11.45am: Mrs Smith seen by two cleaners at her home.
12.10pm: Telephone rings at the house, but no reply.
12.30pm: She misses appointment at hairdressers.
3.45pm: Mr Smith returns home to find a half-ironed shirt and wife's purse on floor.
5.50pm: Telephone rings. "Eleven o'clock," are the only words spoken. Mr Smith calls police.
Friday, March 1:
12.15am: Two rings on telephone but no one speaks.
Noon: Another call. Mr Smith thinks caller is saying "£100,000 or £500,000".
4.35pm: Kidnapper calls again. No amount mentioned. Mr Smith asks: "How much?" There is no reply.
Saturday: 6.15pm: Kidnapper calls asking if Mr Smith has money. He replies it will take until Monday or Tuesday.
Sunday: No calls.
Monday: 12.44pm: Kidnapper calls. Mr Smith says he can get the money. Told to do so. Collects money from bank.
6.25pm: Garbled message from the kidnapper.
6.40pm: Kidnapper tells Mr Smith to go to Gaddesden Row, where he will find a tape with instructions.
7-8pm: Mr Smith and son Ian find a five-minute tape in a cardboard box. Tape contains instructions and message from Mrs Smith.
11.30pm-2am: Police examine and discuss tape.
Yesterday:
6.30am: 999 call to Hemel Hempstead police by milkman saying woman shouting from upstairs window that she has been chained for days.
6.40am: Police on scene; armed officers follow.
7.30am: Detective Chief Superintendent Anthony Swendell arrives.
8.10am: Mr Swendell borrows fire brigade bolt cutters to free Mrs Smith.
8.45am: Mrs Smith arrives at doctor's surgery. The family is reunited.
9.30am: Armed officers arrest man near where Mrs Smith was held.

Successful accord by police and the media

By Peter Victor and Robin Young



The Smiths' home in Markyate from where the businessman's wife was kidnapped

THE kidnap of Margaret Smith was the tenth case in which there was an agreement between police and media to suppress news of an abduction until the victim had been recovered. To date the tactic has always proved successful in achieving a safe release.

The police efforts to free Mrs Smith and catch her kidnapper were code-named Operation Kiwi, and involved more than 200 policemen, 100 of them from the No 5 Regional Crime Squad, uniformed, plain clothes and firearms officers.

David Cansdale, Hertfordshire's assistant chief constable, and other senior officers gave the media details of police operations in twice-daily briefings on the understanding that they would not make any enquiries of their own into the case, take photographs around Mrs Smith's house or home village, or give any publicity to the case until Mrs Smith was found. Mr Cansdale yesterday expressed gratitude for the co-operation his force had received.

News blackouts have been agreed periodically for generations, the best known early example being the understanding Fleet Street reached with Buckingham Palace during the mid-1930s over Edward VIII's affair with Wallis Simpson. Since 1988 there has been a formal accord between police and the media in kidnap cases where life is endangered.

Under the agreement only chief constables, their deputies or the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch can make requests for blackouts, which are considered by editors on their individual merits. Once a blackout is agreed, police hold briefings for journalists every 12 hours. If the operation succeeds, they are obliged under the agreement to make every effort to produce the victim afterwards at a press conference.

Operation Kiwi was the first news blackout arranged by Hertfordshire constabulary. The Metropolitan Police has requested news blackouts on seven occasions. Mr Cansdale said there had been a hiccup on the first day of the kidnapping last week when a reporter telephoned friends of Mr Smith in breach of the blackout.

The following day a white van drove past the Smiths' home three times. "I haven't been able to establish whether that van belonged to the kidnapper or whether it was a member of the press," Mr Cansdale said.

In cases such as that of the Surrey businessman Victor Cracknell, kidnapped in 1988, police were able to tap telephone conversations between his relatives and kidnappers who did not suspect that the police had been called in.

Forensic evidence flawed, QC for Six says

By Stewart Tendler and Frances Gibb

SUBSTANCES on the hands of smokers and a chemical used for food processing produce the same readings as nitro-glycerine on sensitive machinery used to give key forensic evidence against the Birmingham Six, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The evidence taken in 1974 from a process called gas chromotography mass spectometry (GCMS) was crucial to the rejection of the men's last appeal in 1988. Yesterday, Michael Mansfield, QC, for the men, told the new appeal that the GCMS material was now considered unsafe. Taken with doubts on other forensic evidence, Mr Mansfield said there was now no evidence left to support the contention that any of the men had ever handled explosives as claimed at their trial.

Mr Mansell, representing five of the six, was continuing his opening address on the second day of the men's third appeal. The six — Gerry Hunter, Richard McIlkenny, Hugh Callaghan, Billy Power, Paddy Hill, and Johnny Walker — were convicted in 1975 of the murder of 21 people in IRA bomb attacks on two Birmingham public houses.

Mr Mansell said that work by Dr John Lloyd now showed the reading reported for nitro-glycerine on Hill's hand could also be achieved with many other compounds. Swabs taken by Dr Lloyd at random from people coming in to his laboratory would produce the same GCMS reading for nitro-glycerine given at the trial.

Turning to the Griess test carried out by Dr Frank Skuse, Mr Mansfield told the court that the scientists had reported some of his utensils were contaminated as he worked after five of the men were arrested. They gave positive results for nitro-glycerine although none was present when he carried out tests to make sire that they were clean. Now Dr Lloyd had discovered that nitrite found in soaps could give a positive reading.

The hearing continues today.

Fall in visits to historic houses

By John Young

THE number of visitors to historic houses fell last year for the first time in 20 years, a survey published yesterday shows.

Some of the larger and better known properties attracted more people than before, as did houses and castles in Scotland. However, smaller houses in England and Wales mostly fared badly.

Terry Empson, director general of the Historic Houses Association, which published the survey, said that the fall had not been catastrophic. The market had been fairly static for several years, he said. However, the prospects for this year, as a result of the recession in this country and the decline in overseas visitors, especially from America, were certainly pretty gloomy.

The association represents only private owners, and does not take into account properties owned and administered by the National Trust and English Heritage.

	1990	1989	% change
The most popular houses include:			
Warwick Castle	685,000	637,000	+7.54
Leeds Castle	540,483	528,529	+2.26
Blenheim Palace	528,334	502,271	+5.19
Castle Howard	220,929	209,823	+5.29
Harewood House	181,414	189,235	-4.13
Blair Castle	170,554	168,006	+1.52
Arundel Castle	168,794	178,654	-5.52
Bowood House	122,862	155,713	-21.09
Dunvegan Castle	114,366	106,000	+7.89
Exbury Gardens	109,091	115,785	-5.78
Glamis Castle	108,730	92,575	+17.45
Cawdor Castle	108,068	89,134	+21.24
Scone Palace	106,628	101,971	+4.57

'Marvellous' life of Trethowan

By Alice Thomson

"MARVELLOUS" was an expression of Sir Ian Trethowan's that summed up his life, Lord Prior said, paying tribute at a memorial service yesterday for the leading broadcasting figure. "Life for him was marvellous and he enjoyed it to the full and communicated that joy to others."

In an address at St Martin in the Fields, Lord Prior commended the man who had been a prominent figure both on and off the screen as a presenter at ITN, director-general of the BBC and chairman of Thames Television.

Sir Ian's first coup had been becoming a political correspondent for *The Yorkshire Post*. "It was his talent as a political journalist which bought him to notice, followed by fame and success," Lord Prior said. "He was always looking for the story that no one else had got."

Referring to the critical obituary in *The Times* after Sir Ian's death last December, Lord Prior added: "He would have enjoyed hugely the speculation about his own *Times* obituary — 'Who wrote it, I wonder why they said that?'."

Lord Rees-Mogg had fondly called Sir Ian "the archetypal Mr Nice". "That calm, enquiring and entertaining appearance certainly was supported with sinews of steel," Lord Prior said. When the political pack had howled for blood, as it had over Thames Television's *Death on the Rock* programme, it required a steady nerve to stand firm.

Sir Ian had appreciated the good things in life, sailing and racing and dining at the Connaught, but he had, Lord Prior said, put back much more into his interests than he took out and had been an excellent chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board. "When his horse, Buddy Holly, won at Plumpton the day before he died, a copy of *The Sporting Life* was placed on his bed. He simply said "Marvellous".

Memorial service, page 16

New Bentley steals show's thunder

From Kevin Eason
in Geneva

ROLLS-Royce yesterday shook its competitors in the luxury car market by unveiling its first new car for more than ten years at the Geneva Motor Show. The Bentley Continental R is a sweeping £160,000 coupé and is the first new Bentley design to have come from Rolls-Royce's factory at Crewe, Cheshire, since 1952.

The Geneva unveiling took the motoring world by surprise. Attention at the show was firmly focused on new luxury cars being launched by Mercedes, but the new Bentley emerged as the star.

In spite of the price, Peter Ward, Rolls-Royce's chief executive, said that he was confident buyers could be found. Only 280 cars would be made next year, with 70 each for Britain, America, Europe and the Far East. Buyers will be asked for a £20,000 deposit, will be restricted to one car each and will have to undergo a vetting procedure designed to weed out speculators aiming to drive up the price.

Rolls-Royce is acutely aware of the kind of speculating which led to the trebling of prices of other recently launched supercars. Mr Ward said: "We have designed this car to be driven. It is a sporting supercar which will give immense pleasure to owners and it not intended to sit in a garage gathering dust."

Rolls-Royce hopes that the Continental will also revive its fortunes as sales of luxury cars suffer from a worldwide recession. Fears in America over the outcome of the Gulf war and the imposition of a new 10 per cent luxury tax helped to halve Rolls-Royce sales in January to 25 cars. That uncertainty over the future forced the company to shed 700 jobs from the 4,500 strong workforce at Crewe earlier this year. The company, however, is sensing a mood of optimism and hopes that an economic upswing will coincide with the new Bentley's introduction in November.

The Continental brings a more modern shape to the traditional qualities expected of a Bentley and its 6.7-litre, turbo-charged engine underlines its sporting heritage.

For the chosen few: the Bentley Continental R

● Mazda last night confirmed that it wants to be the fourth big Japanese manufacturers to build cars in Europe and is searching for possible factory sites.

Keiji Asano, the company's senior managing director of overseas operations, said that Mazda planned to produce as many as 150,000 cars within the European community, possibly as early as the mid-1990s.

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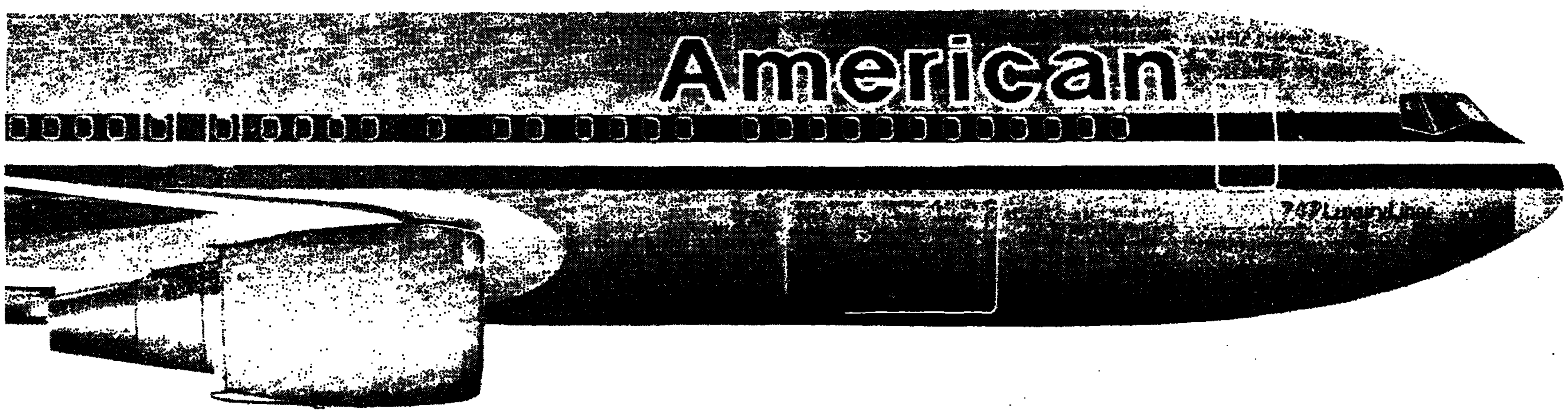

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هكذا امن الأهل

Fight African famine on war footing, relief agencies say

By Michael Knipe and Bill Frost

WITH emergency food supplies to the starving in Africa running dry, an appeal for the international community to respond to the famine with the same vigour with which it responded to the Gulf emergency was made yesterday by famine relief officials in London.

Brendan Gormley, head of Oxfam's Africa programme, said that with more than 20 million facing starvation and early warning of the approaching disaster, it was a pity that politicians seemed to have to wait for pictures to appear of babies dying of hunger before they would find the political will to mobilise aid. He blamed the distractions of the war in the Gulf for the fact that public response to an emergency appeal in January for funds to feed the starving in Africa raised only £5 million, half the amount raised for a similar appeal the previous year.

At least six African countries are badly affected by food shortages: Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola and Liberia. The extent of the shortfall of emergency relief aid was illustrated by the fact that with six million Ethiopians affected by drought needing nearly a million tonnes of food aid, only one third of that amount had so far been pledged by donor nations and of that only 20,000 tonnes has been delivered. Mr Gormley said that the British government had responded relatively well to the emergency and was "open to discussion and persuasion". The European Community and America, however, were less responsive. During the last Ethiopian famine in 1984-5, the Americans had provided half the emergency relief but had received little thanks for it and opinion had now swung against such generous support.

With the Western food donors failing to deliver sufficient supplies to Ethiopia, Oxfam has chartered a ship, due to sail from Ipswich at the weekend, with 4,000 tonnes of grain for Ethiopia and Sudan. "Although our resources are scarce, we hope that by chartering this ship we will be able to galvanize major donors into pledging more and sending more," Mr Gormley said. "It shows that the British public is putting its hand in its pocket and we hope it will send a signal to the politicians to do more as well." The shipment will provide basic cereal rations for a quarter of a million people for one month. To fund the shipment the Overseas Development Administration, Comic Relief, Help the Aged and Band Aid have each provided more than £200,000.

John Magrath, an Oxfam official who has just returned from Ethiopia, said that there had recently been a huge new influx into the Ogaden region of refugees fleeing the civil war in Somalia. An estimated 200,000 had arrived to join 370,000 existing refugees. In addition, there were half a million people living in the Ogaden who were affected by drought. Marcus Thompson, Oxfam's emergencies director, said: "A large scale emergency relief programme for the Ogaden must be mounted immediately."

Save the Children said yesterday that saturation media coverage of the Gulf conflict reduced the level of donations to Third World causes by keeping reports about critical food shortages in African countries out of television news bulletins and the press. A Disasters Emergency Fund Appeal, aimed at easing the worst effects of the famine, closed last month after raising £6 million. Giselle Dye, of Save the Children, expressed gratitude to those who contributed, but said the level of giving was dented by the Gulf war.

Martin Horwood, of Oxfam, thought that some money which normally would have been donated towards famine relief had gone to the Gulf Trust, established by the government in January. In Sudan, international relief workers said their efforts had been hampered by a government decision to ground United Nations flights into the southern region. Relief workers say that a million people could die this year.

Parents deny ritual sex claims as care order is extended

By Kerry Gill

NINE children at the centre of ritual sexual abuse claims involving parents were yesterday ordered to be kept in care for a further 21 days after a children's hearing was given details of the allegations.

The four Orkney families were finally told of the allegations at the hearings in Kirkwall. Each family was dealt with in turn at the children's panel offices in a side street in Kirkwall, the biggest town in Orkney. About 50 people gathered outside in the rain to picket the proceedings. They held banners saying "Children punished not protected" and "Children back to Orkney now". Inside, all the families denied the allegations. Many broke down and demanded the return of their children.

One mother, emerging from the hearing, said it was like a Salem witch hunt. "It is just ridiculous. The social worker that made the allegations I have never met before. She was simpering and saying it was in the child's best interests. It is just not possible. The social work people are round the twist."

The parents have not been allowed to see or speak to their children since they were seized from their beds in a dawn raid last Wednesday. Asked if the mother had any message for her sons aged 11 and 15, she replied: "Stick in there, kids, we are all coming."

A local Church of Scotland minister, the Rev Morris McKenzie, aged 64, was also questioned by police and St Andrews university robes taken after his manse and church were searched for five hours.

During the hearings the panel of two women and a man decided that the children had been exposed to "moral danger" by the alleged acts said to have taken place up to November, 1990, when eight other children were taken into care on the island.

Lesley Scarth, the panel chairman, read out the grounds for extending the care order and said it was essential that the matter should be cleared up. She said the panel could not be 100 per cent sure because no further reports were available yet.

The first mother to appear told the hearing: "I find the allegations absolutely repugnant. I certainly do not accept the grounds for referral." Her husband agreed. Later she said: 'It is appalling that an agency like the social work department can have total control over our lives in Britain. We are not going to give up. It could be any child in Britain."

A social worker told the hearing that the department was carrying out a joint enquiry with the police. She said: "We have no interest in keeping these children in care longer than is necessary. It is simply a question of getting to the truth."

Mrs Scarth said: "It is not the business of the hearing system to keep any children for one day, one hour longer than is absolutely essential."

The Rev Derek Edwards, a Baptist minister, asked if he could take some of the children into his care so as to keep them on Orkney. His plea was refused.

Last night Alistair Bruce, lawyer for two of the families, confirmed that all four families would make an appeal to the sheriff court today. The families would ask for the care order to be rescinded and, if so, the sheriff would have the power to have all nine children released immediately. The social work department would have the right to make an appeal to the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court. The hearing today will be in private.

He added that the parents had been left bewildered, confused and isolated. "This is in absolute disregard of the guidelines drawn up after the Cleveland inquiry," he said.

The Orkney Presbytery, the Church of Scotland governing body on the islands, said that the methods used to investigate the allegations had been unacceptable and the church reaffirmed the sanctity of the family and the rights of parents and children in the home.

Guidelines issued for tunnel link decision

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

LONG-AWAITED guidelines for deciding which of four routes the Channel tunnel rail link should take between Kent and central London were published yesterday.

The guidelines, which require British Rail to assess each option by a common set of criteria, including construction costs, journey times, and environmental impact, have been compiled by W.S. Atkins, an independent firm of consultants.

Although the route of the proposed Kent rail link between Folkestone and the North Downs was finalised in June, British Rail has yet to decide how to bring the link into central London from Upper Halling, a distance of about 40 miles.

British Rail is planning a southerly approach through south London, and is understood to have narrowed the options from 80 to five or six. Last week, Sir Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, said that one would be chosen within the two months.

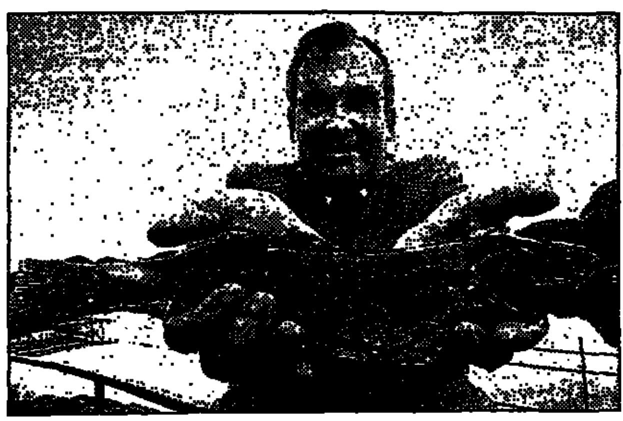
However, three alternative schemes have been produced to rival the British Rail route. These include a scheme by Ove Arup, which departs from British Rail's Folkestone-Upper Halling route east of the Medway, crossing the Thames near Dartford, before entering London via Stratford.

A second option is the Rail Europe scheme, which leaves the British Rail Folkestone-Upper Halling route after Ashford, crossing the Thames north of Tilbury, and ending at Stratford. The final option, drawn up by the London borough of Newham, follows the British Rail route into central London before going east to Stratford via Docklands.

British Rail has agreed to use the guidelines, copies of which have been sent to local authorities affected by the routes, along with MPs and environmental groups, before deciding which scheme should be supported.

A decision is expected towards the end of the year, when Sir Bob intends to introduce a hybrid bill into Parliament, with government support, enabling the rail link to be completed by 1998.

- Installation of the high-technology signalling system needed to guide the new fleet of shuttle, passenger, and freight trains through the Channel tunnel is on schedule for completion in 1993, Eurotunnel said yesterday. The system will recognise individual trains, adjust their speed, and ensure that track ahead is clear.



Big fish: John MacKay with a one-year-old halibut

Halibut reared in tanks are year old

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

HALIBUT lovers may soon be able to look forward to cheaper and more plentiful supplies of one of the most highly prized fish, according to researchers who have successfully reared the species in captivity.

Forty-seven fish grown in tanks at the Sea Fish Industry Authority's marine farming unit at Ardtoe on the west coast of Scotland are the first cultivated halibut in Britain to reach one year of age. "Our researchers are contributing to the establishment of an important commercial activity as well as the improvement of consumer choice," John MacKay, the authority's chairman, said.

Wild halibut can reach 750lb and 10ft and are believed to live for 30 years. Their normal home is the north Atlantic where the temperature range is 5-12°C and they spawn at depths of more than 3,000ft. Because of overfishing, they are plentiful only in arctic waters.

"We catch the broodstock in the wild," John Dye, a research officer, said. "This is a traumatic experience for the fish and we have to hold them for at least a year before they will breed." The eggs are stripped from the female and fertilised with sperm from the males in polythene tubs. The eggs are checked for quality and put in an incubator, hatching into larvae in 14-15 days. The larvae take another 30-35 days to grow to a size where they are capable of feeding.

There are still many technical problems to be overcome and commercial production of halibut may be five years or more away. The potential is considerable: halibut was fetching up to £5.5 a lb at Billingsgate yesterday, compared with a maximum of £1.80 a lb for farmed salmon. Traders say that the ideal size for sale to hotels and restaurateurs is 10-20lbs. Halibut's high price keeps it off most domestic dinner tables.

Jail job centre brings new hope

An in-house job centre is giving hope to prisoners nearing release, Quentin Cowdry reports

TWO weeks ago Joe, who is nearing the end of a year's jail sentence for assault, seemed destined again for the dole. An 18-year criminal record hardly aids a person's job prospects, especially during a recession.

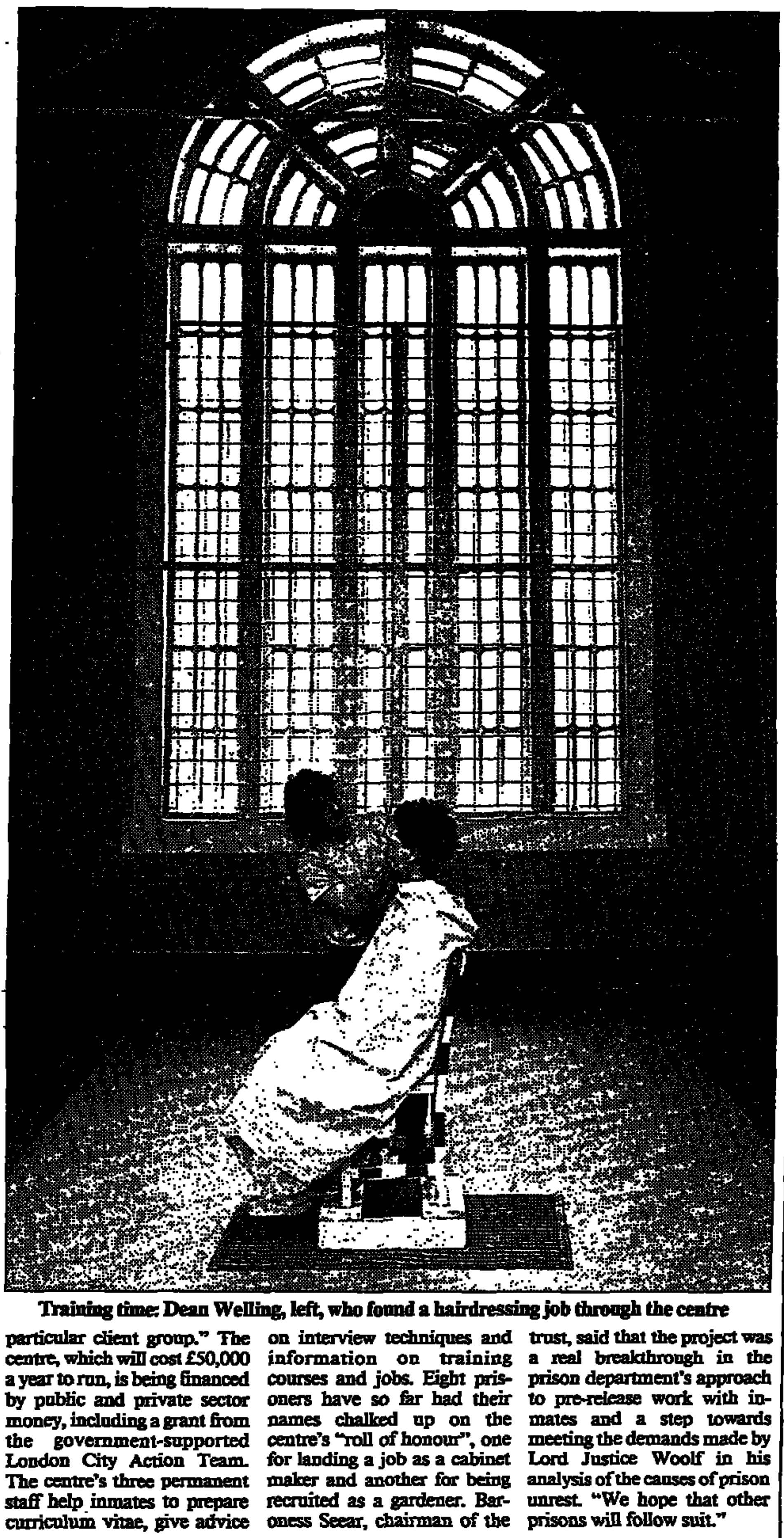
However, as he spoke yesterday of his new hopes of becoming a hairdresser, there seemed just a chance that this tough south Londoner might at last break the cycle of unemployment and criminality that has dogged him.

If Joe does end up behind a barber's chair, much of the thanks will be due to a pioneering initiative by the Apex Trust which has set up a job centre in Pentonville prison, north London. The trust, a charity which promotes employment opportunities for offenders, offers advice to prisoners but had not been allowed a permanent presence inside a jail.

Joe, whose surname has been omitted to prevent possible discrimination by prospective employers, is especially grateful for the training he has received in handling job interviews. "Often I've ended up losing my rag with interviewers which is not the best way of getting on," said Joe, whose criminal record began with a conviction for selling ice creams unlawfully at the age of ten. He is also convinced that joblessness plays a big part in breeding crime. "It certainly has in my case, anyway."

The centre was formally opened yesterday by Robert Jackson, junior employment minister. Few at the ceremony sought to minimise the formidable difficulties prisoners face in finding jobs after being released. Ninety per cent of the 60,000 freed each year have no job to go to and many are still jobless after a year.

Mr Jackson said that on-site jail job clubs would help to counter the pessimism prisoners felt at knowing that the odds of finding work were bad. "There is little doubt that employers are deterred from considering ex-offenders as employees, both by the perceived risk involved and by the negative image of this particular client group." The centre, which will cost £50,000 a year to run, is being financed by public and private sector money, including a grant from the government-supported London City Action Team. The centre's three permanent staff help inmates to prepare curriculum vitae, give advice on interview techniques and information on training courses and jobs. Eight prisoners have so far had their names chalked up on the centre's "roll of honour", one for landing a job as a cabinet maker and another for being recruited as a gardener. Baroness Seear, chairman of the trust, said that the project was a real breakthrough in the prison department's approach to pre-release work with inmates and a step towards meeting the demands made by Lord Justice Woolf in his analysis of the causes of prison unrest. "We hope that other prisons will follow suit."



Training time: Dean Welling, left, who found a hairdressing job through the centre

House price rises predicted this year

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

HOUSE prices remained almost static between January and February, indicating that the market has finally bottomed out, the Nationwide Anglia Building Society reported yesterday.

The society's latest price survey found that at the end of last month the average house price was £57,661, only £9 less than in January. Nationwide's figures are slightly more optimistic for sellers than those from the Halifax Building Society yesterday.

Halifax said that prices fell by 0.4 per cent between January and February, the fifth consecutive monthly fall. That meant the annual rate of house price inflation was minus 0.5 per cent by the end of last month.

Both societies, however, believe that prices could show a 5 per cent increase by the end of the year. The Halifax said that the recent fall in interest rates should help the very weak market, but further cuts would be needed to restore buoyancy. The Woolwich building society was even more bullish. Announcing the society's results yesterday, Donald Kirkham, group chief executive, said that across the country prices would rise by an average of 6 per cent this year, although in the South the increase would be only 3-5 per cent because of the number of properties waiting to be sold. He predicted that the housing market would return to pre-1988 levels by next year.

The accompanying table, with figures provided by the Halifax, shows the change in average prices in cities and towns since the end of the property boom in 1988. The second column gives the prices at the end of 1988 updated by the RPI change to December 1990 (an increase of about 17.75 per cent), indicating the towns worst affected by the slump. Q4 signifies the fourth quarter. Towns in the South have clearly suffered badly, but they are likely to be the first to recover.

AVERAGE PROPERTY PRICES (£)

	1988 Q4	1988† Q4	1990 Q4
Aberdeen	46,103	54,290	66,887
Bradford	33,164	39,050	47,984
Chester	54,029	63,620	73,336
Coventry	60,362	71,070	48,091
Derby	50,772	59,780	52,808
Glasgow	47,514	55,950	63,205
Hull	31,307	36,860	44,219
Middlesbrough	33,999	40,030	59,807
Nottingham	50,565	59,540	57,512
Oldham	31,870	37,530	50,738
Oxford	106,890	125,860	95,061
Reading	92,915	109,410	100,725
Rochdale	34,317	40,410	55,456
Sevenoaks	167,053	196,700	144,045
Stoke	36,143	42,560	47,779
Tunbridge Wells	95,864	112,880	103,496
York	64,796	76,300	68,491

†RPI adjusted

Windsor Seven top suspects in a royal biting

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen needed three stitches after being bitten on the left hand when she tried to break up an outburst of gang warfare, it has been confirmed officially by Buckingham Palace. The assailant's identity is not being disclosed, but it is thought to be one of the notorious Seven Dwarfs of Windsor.

Prime suspects are Spark, Myth, Fable, Diamond, Kelpie, Phoenix and Pharos, members of the feared royal corgi gang, who have often struck terror into the hearts and ankles of visitors to the palace. Fighting broke out during a meeting at Windsor on Sunday with two rival Welsh mafiosi from the Queen Mother mob who run the Clarence House racket.

Also involved in the fracas were the Dreadful Dorgis, a pair of corgi-dachshund crossbreeds named Piper and Harris who carve up the royal concession with the Windsor Seven. Experts believe that they are unlikely to have carried out the attack, as their reputation for violence does not match that of the purebred mob from Pembrokeshire.

It is still not clear what provoked the Welsh corgi battle. Witnesses do not know whether it was an eruption of inter-gang rivalry or an internal power struggle to become Godfather of the Windsor Seven.

When the Queen tried to intervene, she was bitten on the left knuckle. John Collins, the Queen Mother's chauffeur, who rushed to assist, was also bitten and had to be taken to hospital for a tetanus injection. Both have now recovered, and the Queen conducted an investiture yesterday with her hand bandaged.

Violence erupted two years ago when the Clarence House mob led by their godfather, Ranger, attacked and killed Chipper, a former member of the Windsor Seven. Dr Roger Mugford, an animal behaviourist called in by the Queen after the 1989 killing, said yesterday that Sunday's biting of the hand that feeds them every day at 5pm sharp was probably an accident and may have been caused by a fight over a piece of food.

Pensioner held in gun siege

A gunman held a shotgun to the mouth of an elderly man in a siege at a block of flats in Coventry yesterday.

Armed police surrounded the block at Bruce Road, Radford, at about 3am following a call from the 67-year-old man after he had been threatened and beaten by a gunman who had burst in to his flat and had later fled to a nearby flat. Superintendant Bill Guest, wearing a bullet-proof vest and carrying a protective shield, went into the victim's flat to pull him clear. The pensioner was yesterday afternoon in hospital recovering from head injuries. Two armed officers eventually approached the flat containing the gunman and persuaded him to surrender.

A man was later being questioned by police.

Father jailed

Michael Olley, who broke his 11-month-old daughter's skull, was jailed for six months yesterday. Olley, angry that the baby's mother would not spend the night with him, repeatedly threw the baby in the air, Southwark crown court was told. Then, Olley, with the baby on his shoulders, hit the woman and the baby fell, fracturing her skull. Olley, aged 24, of Stepney, east London, admitted child cruelty and assault.

Stolen twice

A meat firm is considering suing Northumbria police after a lorry holding £20,000 of meat on which a constable was keeping watch after the stolen vehicle had been found apparently dumped at Whickham, Tyne and Wear, was stolen again when the officer was sent to a burglary.

Cheaper rides

Fares on Eastern Counties buses are to fall by between 3p and 5p in the pound. The company said: "We had to put up fares last October when the price of fuel went up because of the Gulf crisis. Now the war is over, fuel prices are going down. We are passing this on to our travellers."

Romance back

Twin-sized back row seats, popular with courting couples in the Fifties, have made a comeback at a Bath cinema. The "lovers' doubles" have been installed at the Gemini cinema as part of a £125,000 refurbishment.

Police rescue

Police pursuing a man near Aveton Gifford, Devon, had to rescue him when he drove down a flooded tidal road. Police swam across the creek crossing as the man's car sank.

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AN important breakthrough in the treatment of male impotence has led to unprecedented success in recent clinically controlled trials.

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"Male impotence affects far more men than is realised and many of the cases previously diagnosed as untreatable have been helped to resume a normal sex life. Many men are already using this thoroughly tested and safe treatment in the privacy of their own home".

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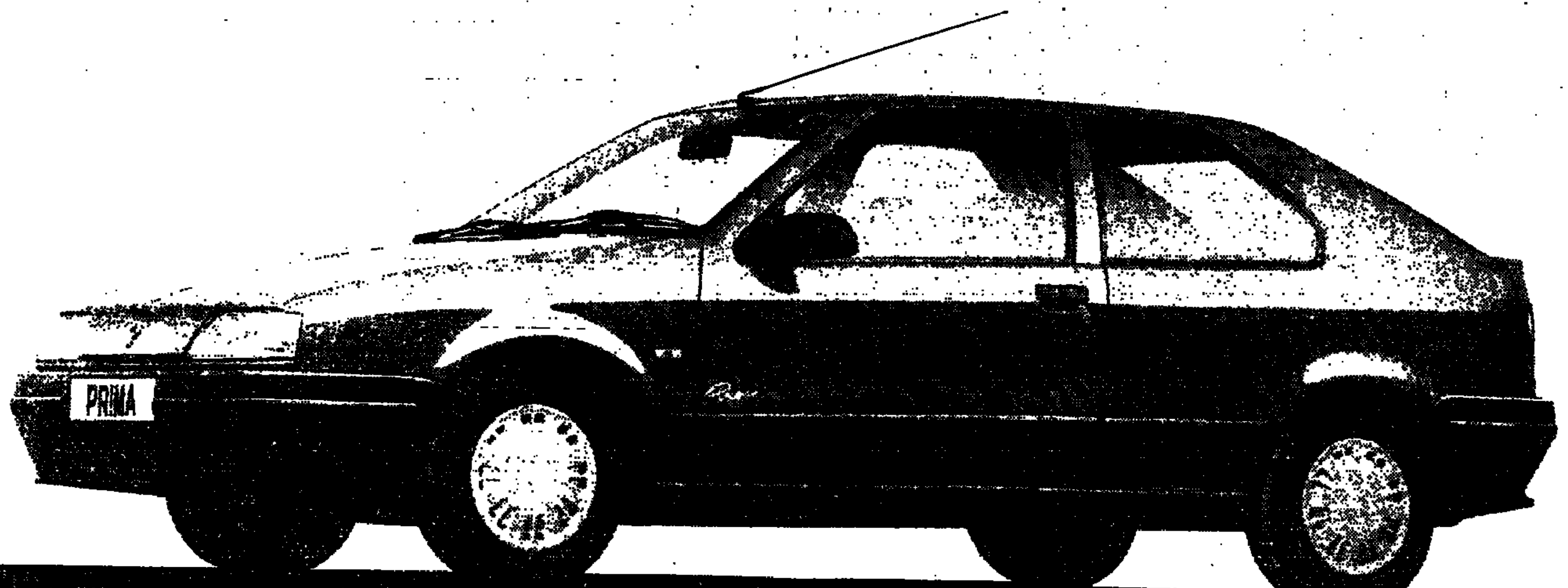

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Welfare and schools to be at heart of Tory manifesto

The Tories' manifesto plans, Richard Ford writes, will be likely to meet John Major's desire that the party should be able to present itself to the electorate as radical and compassionate

COMMITMENTS to extend and improve the welfare and public services, privatise remaining state industries and to encourage schools to opt out of local council control are emerging as the key elements of the Conservative election manifesto.

The manifesto group reports being delivered to Conservative Central Office are expected to offer John Major the basis of a programme that, while appealing to the radical Thatcherite right, will allow him to move the party on to his chosen ground of appealing to the floating voter. Mr Major has outlined the party's challenge as remaining radical while being compassionate to those who needed special assistance.

The manifesto is likely to provide a strong commitment to the market economy and sound money, offer greater incentives for saving and emphasise the need to preserve and improve the efficiency of the public services, particularly in the health and education field.

Increased power for parents, far-reaching reform of teacher training and more emphasis on technical and vocational training will be key elements in plans for a fourth Conservative administration. Along with raising the status of vocational qualifications and teachers, the party will spearhead moves to encourage schools to opt out of local authority control and become grant maintained or locally managed. Under that proposal schools would get almost all the education budget, leaving the local authorities with powers to license schools and provide advisory and special needs services.

With the national curriculum now being implemented, the Tories are highlighting teaching standards, in particular the need for changes in teacher training. Ministers want trainee teachers to spend more time on practical work in the classroom and less time on theoretical training in colleges. Mr Major is being urged to raise the status of BTec vocational qualifications, but less emphasis is being put on encouraging "magnet" schools and city technology colleges.

Transport is another key area for the party, with Tory voters in southern England suffering from overcrowding, road congestion and problems on the railways. A fresh commitment to privatise British Rail is likely to be the hgighlight of the party's plans for transport in the Nineties. An idea likely to be attractive to commuters is a plan to reimburse people whose trains are late through staff inefficiency. The right is pressing for the party to give a commitment to deregulate London buses, bringing them into line with other bus services in the rest of the country.

Mr Major's interest in seeing increased home ownership will be a key element of the party's appeal. The party is almost certain to promise an extension of the "rent-to-mortgages" scheme to include part sales of council flats and houses. The prime minister is also keen for local authorities to contract out some white-collar services including housing management, computing, legal services, planning and conveyancing.

There is still no agreement on the future of the poll tax, however. As part of his plans for the future, Michael Heseltine favours abolishing county councils.

The Tory trade and industry working party is expected to propose the privatisation of the Post Office, though that may initially be confined to parcels and counter services. A proposal to break the monoploy of the Royal Mail may in Mr Major's judgment be too sensitive to appear in the manifesto. Further, every study of privatising the Royal Mail has been unable to resolve the difficulties of providing a service in rural areas that often are Conservative electoral heartlands.

The manifesto group has also been looking at a ways of making competition policy more effective.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, will have the job of persuading the voters that the health service is safe in Conservative hands. Although the right would like the manifesto to extend tax relief to all people taking out private health insurance, Mr Major is likely to emphasise that there are no plans to privatise health care. Mr Waldegrave has made clear that there will be no extension of tax incentives for private health care.

The manifesto is also likely to emphasise the trend towards hospital trusts and GPs' budgets that ministers see as the way to devolve power from the centre, improve efficiency, bring greater flexibility and individual choice. Mr Waldegrave is keen that the party should make disease prevention and health promotion a key plank in the party's plans. After the Budget he will publish a green paper setting out national targets for reducing serious illnesses such as heart disease, cancer and strokes. The manifesto is expected to insist also that child benefit will be preserved, although it is expected to insist on the importance of improving targeting.

Sunday trading rejected

The latest attempt to change the law on Sunday trading was rejected decisively by MPs. John Marshall, Conservative MP for Hendon South, was refused leave to introduce his Shops bill by 144 votes to 75. It would have provided for licensed Sunday trading, expansion of shopping hours on the six Sundays before Christmas and protection of shop workers.

Opposing it, Ray Powell (Ogmore, Lab) said that no employee could be protected adequately once the floodgates of Sunday trading were opened.

Health costs

About £511 a head of population is being spent this financial year on the health service, Stephen Dorrell, health under secretary, said in a written reply. The equivalent figure in 1978-9 was £365 at today's prices, a real-terms increase of 40 per cent.

Drugs bill

The drugs bill in the family health services this financial year is expected to be about £2,116 million, Virginia Bottomley, health minister, said in a written reply.

NHS trusts

Fifty-seven health service trusts will be operational from April 1, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said in a written reply. Nine further candidates are continuing to work towards trust status, he added.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) bill, remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Debates on transport in the Southeast, on refugees and on the Gulf.

Heseltine's property tax scheme wins support

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

COUNCIL CASH

A STRONG signal that the solution eventually emerging from the government's poll tax review will meet the principle that everyone should contribute to the cost of local government services was delivered by a senior cabinet minister yesterday.

With the cabinet poll tax committee preparing to meet tomorrow for its latest attempt to break the deadlock, there were renewed signs of optimism among supporters of Michael Heseltine that his plan for a property tax adjusted according to the number of people living in a home would carry the day.

The community charge and its impact in tomorrow's Ribble Valley by-election dominated exchanges in prime minister's question time in the Commons when John MacGregor, the Commons leader, stood in for John Major, who was in Moscow.

Mr MacGregor, a member of the poll tax committee, confirmed that all options were still being looked at. He said, however, that one of the most important features of the community charge was that everyone is making some contribution.

Sources close to the review said yesterday that Mr Heseltine was making some progress in winning over colleagues to his plan, referred to as "the hybrid". But the key to its success, or to alternative proposals for keeping a modified version of the community charge, will be a reduction in the spending borne by local government, the sources said. Without that Mr Heseltine's plan could founder because of opposition over the number of losers it would create.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has run into fierce opposition within his department to the plans he is enthusiastically pressing for, with Mr Heseltine, the environment secretary, for a rapid expansion of grant-maintained schools. That holds the key to the success of Mr Heseltine's proposals and his supporters are voicing hopes that the prime minister will support the move and overcome Treasury opposition to giving up the substantial new funds required.

Mr MacGregor's remarks about everyone contributing to local services are similar to those made by the prime minister before the review began. Mr Heseltine's proposals were drawn up precisely with that aim in mind.

Mr Heseltine's proposed tax would be banded according the type of house or flat and adjusted by relatively modest "personal premiums" to take account of the number of people living there. That would meet the principle that everyone pays. However, there remains strong Conservative backbench opposition to a property tax.

MacGregor: community charge principle is that everyone pays something for services

Hoaxers face stiff penalty

THE government came under pressure in both houses of Parliament yesterday to bring in tougher sentences for bomb hoaxers.

Lady Phillips, a JP and Labour peer, protested in the Lords that those found guilty were given only three months in jail. She added: "Many of us, if we were sitting on the bench, would make sure they got 30 years".

Lord Harris of Greenwich, the Liberal Democrat, also made clear his irritation at the penalties. He said that a three-month sentence meant in reality only six weeks' jail.

In the Commons, Sir John Stokes, Tory MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, was cheered at prime minister's question time when he questioned whether three months was sufficient for such a dangerous offence.

John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, replying on behalf of John Major, who is in Moscow, said that the government and British Telecom are examining the issue.

Earl Ferrers, the Home office minister of state, told peers that in the 24 hours after the IRA bombs at Paddington and Victoria stations last month, 79 hoax calls were made. He described them as an appalling frustration and a most wicked waste of time.

Ministers look to ways of recasting RPI

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

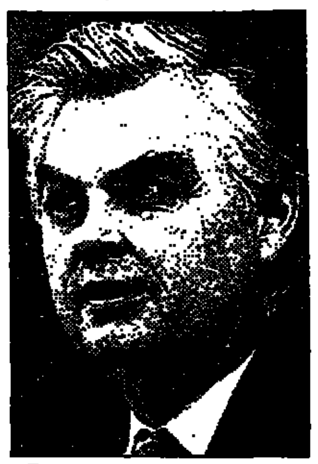
TREASURY

THE expected sharp fall in inflation to about 4 per cent by the end of the year has revived hopes in Downing Street of recasting the way in which inflation is measured.

The prime minister has been arguing that the present basis for compiling the retail price index including mortgage costs and poll tax changes damages Britain. He believes that it gives other countries the idea that inflation is worse than it is. John Major says that the present system penalises Britain externally "because it implies that our inflation rate proportionately is higher than it really is to our competitors".

He believes that the question of a change should be examined. But both Mr Major and Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, have been reluctant to invite the retail price index advisory committee, which will decide the question, to contemplate changes in the composition of the index, covering housing costs in a different way, because pensions and some social security benefits are linked to the present prices index.

They would be able to change the system, they believe, only at the point when the general inflation rate and the underlying rate that they wish to see reflected in official figures instead, have come together. That would ensure that there was no penalty involved in the change for those whose benefit levels are related to the present index, avoiding accusations of "cheating" from political opponents It is believed that such a point could be reached later this year.



Lamont: has not wanted to move too soon

Last plea made for steel plant

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

SCOTLAND

BRITISH Steel will be urged next week not to wreck the last chance of saving the Scottish steel industry by dismantling the plant at Ravenscraig's hot strip mill in Motherwell.

In a report highly critical of British Steel management's handling of the closures in Scotland, the Commons trade and industry committee is to ask the company to leave the plant intact in case a buyer can be found. If the company refuses, the committee wants the European Commission to investigate whether the company may be deterring a prospective competitor.

Scholey: will be singled out for criticism

The committee held an enquiry after British Steel announced the loss of 770 jobs at Ravenscraig. Last month the company disclosed plans to lose a further 1,100 of the remaining 2,300 jobs at Ravenscraig by July.

The committee has limited powers for questioning commercial decisions taken by a privatised company, but the report is expected to deplore British Steel's handling of negotiations with workers and the Scottish Office over the future of Ravenscraig. It also wants the company to take a more positive stance to the option of turning Ravenscraig into a supplier of raw slabs for export.

The report to be published on March 14 will single out the chairman, Sir Robert Scholey, for criticism in the wake of a heated session with the committee after he had made clear that he objected to appearing before the cross-party group. He admitted that he had not visited the hot strip mill for five years and was reluctant to disclose to the MPs his long-term plans.

Pledge to lone mothers

TONY Newton, the social security secretary, has dismissed fears that lone mothers will be vulnerable to attack if they are forced to disclose the name of their children's father (Sheila Gunn writes).

He assured the Commons social security committee yesterday that the proposed child support agency for tracking down absent parents for maintenance payments will not disclose women's addresses if there is a danger of violence. He is considering how to achieve a proper balance between pursuing absent fathers and protecting lone mothers who may be at risk of attack.

"Clearly", he said, "we would want to have arrangements that take account of well founded fears of harm in whatever form, but I would be reluctant to get into a position where anybody can get around their liability by simply making random threats."

Training is key to beating fraud

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

COMPUTER MISUSE

REPORTED cases of government computer fraud are highest within the employment department, a report published yesterday by the independent National Audit Office has found.

In the period 1985-90, nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of reported cases of fraud against government computer systems were from employment department offices.

Offences ranged from a worker inputting false claims through a computer terminal that had been switched on and left unattended to authorised staff altering computer records so that giro cheques were directed to an incorrect address.

The biggest case of reported computer fraud was against defence ministry computers. Unlawful use of a stores computer allowed an employee to acquire and sell equipment worth £17,427 between 1986 and 1987. That was followed by a fraud at the National Savings department where a member of staff used computers to identify rarely active savings accounts from which £13,000 was obtained by illegal repayment methods.

Incidents of computer fraud also happened during the five-year period at the Inland Revenue and the transport and health departments.

The findings come nearly three years after an audit office report, *Computer Security in Government Departments*, that highlighted concerns over the security of government computer systems and the data they hold from fraud, floods and fires.

John Bourn, head of the office, said the new study showed that government departments had made "significant progress" in information technology security since the last study but that further improvements were needed.

One key area highlighted was the need for better training of staff. The study found that awareness of security was generally poor among non-technical staff and that only a third of all departments had a formal awareness scheme. Some departments took the attitude that since they had not suffered a security breach the risks were minimal.

The findings will be debated by the House of Commons public accounts comittee after Easter.

National Audit Office: *The Management of Information Technology Security in Government Departments* (Stationery Office; £4.95).

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ARAB SECURITY

Cairo proposes Egyptian-Syrian peace force core

From Agence France-Presse in Damascus

ESMAT Adbel-Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister, proposed in the Syrian capital yesterday that Egyptian and Syrian troops form the core of an Arab peace force in the Gulf, enabling the pullout of American and other Western forces from the region.

Egyptian and Syrian forces at present in the Gulf could form the core of a force to preserve peace in the region after the withdrawal of non-Arab troops, he said at a meeting of foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria and the Gulf Co-operation Council, whose members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Dr Abdel-Meguid said post-war security arrangements would be defensive in nature, not imposed from abroad but decided from within the Arab world, and bases on the charter of the Arab League and its common defence pact. A new security pact would not constitute an axis that is hostile to the forces that do not form part of it, he said.

After a first round of talks, Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, said there were no differences between the eight countries involved on plans for the security, political and economic future of the Middle East.

"Our understanding of co-operation and collaboration between the eight countries will be a solid basis and a general starting-point for collaboration between Arab countries, and this basis is open to these countries," he said. Dr Abdel-Meguid, in his address, said a just settlement to the Palestinian question was a key element to future stability in the Middle East.

"We will make all efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem based on international legality and guarantees of their national rights to self-determination and the creation of their independent state," he said.

In a reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for Iraq in the Gulf conflict, he said: "We are all agreed that we should not mix the cause of the Palestinian people with the positions of some of their leaders."

The Egyptian foreign minister also called on Arab institutions and monetary funds to make a careful study for a global and equitable development in the Arab world. During the Gulf conflict, Iraq attacked the economic disparity between the oil-rich southern states in the Gulf and the poorer northern countries that make up the rest of the Arab world.

Turning to the Arab League, which is now based in Cairo, Dr Abdel-Meguid refuted claims that it had failed to resolve the Gulf conflict, maintaining it had played an important role in the liberation of Kuwait. Most countries at an Arab summit in the Egyptian capital on August 10 had voted in favour of sending troops to the Gulf.

The meeting in Damascus follows initial talks in Cairo last month between Egypt and Syria and the co-operation council, which were united in the American-led, anti-Iraqi coalition in the Gulf.

A new security arrangement aims at leading to the deployment of an Arab force in the Gulf that would trim the presence of Western troops in the sensitive region to an absolute minimum, diplomatic sources said in Damascus. Saudi Arabia and its five partners were expected to provide the funds.

● **ABU DHABI:** Eight United Arab Emirates servicemen died during Operation Desert Storm, Sheikh Muhammad ben Rashid al-Maktoum, the defence minister, said. Another 14 were injured, with all casualties occurring during the allied land offensive to liberate Kuwait. *(AFP)*

Language of war, page 13
Iraq's future, page 14
Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Letters, page 15

Pitting their wits: members of the 3rd platoon of the US Army's 43rd Engineers preparing to blow up a mass of Iraqi arms stacked in a hole as part of clean-up operations in Iraq. The cache of arms found in the desert includes mortars, grenades and anti-tank weapons

ISRAEL

Levy set to seize chance for peace

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

ISRAEL sees a new constructiveness among Arab states that fought with the allied coalition. David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, told Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that if the Damascus summit of the eight Arab countries drew up a strategy for Gulf stability that renounced violence Israel was ready to cooperate. "The eight could be eight plus one."

He indicated his country was willing to open parallel negotiations with neighbouring Arab states on the basis of peace proposals it put forward in 1989. Despite Israel's strong opposition until recently to an international peace conference, he agreed with Mr Hurd that such a conference would be needed in the longer term.

Mr Hurd said the conference needed much preparation and it should not be convened until it was clear who would represent the Palestinians. He said in Brussels on Monday there was a good chance of resolving some historical problems. "There is a bit of a breeze – I do not say it is enough to fill the sail or to get us in port."

Mr Levy offered no new proposals or any promise that his fellow cabinet ministers were ready for a new initiative. But the British side was struck by his positive approach and the generally warm relations, and by his clear understanding that the Gulf war had opened opportunities for peace that should not be lost.

Mr Levy's visit was to thank Britain for its support during the Gulf war and to build on a good relationship he established with Mr Hurd in telephone calls while Israel was under attack from Iraqi Scud missiles. His visit, just before a trip to Israel by three European Community foreign ministers and the discussions James Baker, the US Secretary of State, will hold in Jerusalem, underlined Britain's role in trying to get Arab-Israeli peace talks going again.

Britain wants to give a nudge to quiet diplomacy, but believes a framework for peace negotiations is still needed. There was little discussion yesterday of the occupied territories and the other specific negotiating issues. Mr Hurd said Yassir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation had not helped its cause during the Gulf war, but Britain believed the Palestinians had to decide how they should be represented.

WAR COVERAGE

Reporters listed as missing in Basra

By Susan Ellicott in Washington and John Phillips in Paris

AROUND 27 foreign reporters were missing yesterday after setting off without a military escort for Basra, where heavy fighting by opposition and government forces for control of Iraq's second largest city is being reported.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman warned that the journalists could be in serious danger, while an American offical in Riyadh said it was a "stupid idea" for journalists to travel outside the military's closely-watched news pools. News organisations have complained that the Pentagon's reporting rules were too strict and a growing number of journalists have broken away from official minders.

The missing journalists include 15 of France's best known reporters, including the correspondents and crew from the television channels TF1, Antenne 2 and La Cinq, reporters for Radio Monte Carlo, and correspondents from *Le Monde* and *Libération* newspapers, *l'Evénement du Jeudi* magazine and a photographer from Reuters Paris news agency. Among the journalists listed as missing by the Pentagon are two Reuters photographers, correspondents from CNN television, The New York Times and National Public Radio.

A French foreign ministry spokesman said of the French journalists: "The French government is seriously concerned about their fate, and has made every useful and necessary contact to try and know what happened to them in order that they might obtain their liberty."

Happy day: Helen Peters, wife of Flight Lieutenant John Peters, with son Guy, aged two, and baby daughter Toni, aged six months, waiting for him to return to Laarbruch, Germany. Flight Lieutenant Peters, aged 29, the Tornado pilot whose appearance on Baghdad television caused an international outcry, is one of three British prisoners of war who were released by the Iraqis on Monday

IRAQ

Kuwaiti property will be returned

From Reuter in Baghdad

IRAQ has decided to return all property it seized after its August 2 invasion of Kuwait, Baghdad radio said yesterday, quoting the official Iraqi news agency INA. The agency said the decision on Monday by the Revolutionary Command Council, headed by President Saddam Hussein, was in implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The radio said Saddam chaired the command council meeting on Monday to assess the latest "political developments". It said the command council instructed the foreign ministry to inform the United Nations and work with Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, on "taking the proper measures to implement the decision".

Baghdad last week accepted all security council resolutions, which included an order to rescind all laws which contravene UN decisions. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said on Monday he had the impression that Iraq was trying to make every effort to implement all the requirements of various UN resolutions.

Iraq seized all Kuwaiti government property and the assets of the country's ruling al-Sabah family after annexing the emirate. It also confiscated, in Iraq and Kuwait, American assets and those of other nations which implemented the United Nations' economic blockade imposed after the invasion.

● **WASHINGTON:** Edward Gnehm, the United States ambassador to Kuwait, is working out of his home because the embassy in Kuwait City is too heavily damaged, according to an American official. "The ambassador and his staff are living on military rations and bottled water, using electricity supplied by emergency generators," a spokeswoman said. *(AP)*

PALESTINIAN EXODUS

Hundreds flee to land stricken with turmoil

From Lin Jenkins in Safwan, Southern Iraq

THE black, driving rain and premature nightfall, brought on by hundreds of oil well fires, added to the despair of Palestinians who took to the roads in their hundreds yesterday to flee Kuwait for an uncertain future in Iraq.

At the border near Safwan, on the road to Basra, they arrived in long convoys with meagre possessions, tied precariously in cardboard boxes on car roofs, soaking wet in the rain. Their hurried departure reflected their fear of violent reprisals for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for President Saddam Hussein and the actions of a small number of Palestinian collaborators who informed on the Kuwaiti resistance movement and Western expatriates hiding in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

During the last two days there has also been an exodus in the opposite direction as Kuwaitis and Egyptians in Basra and other southern Iraqi towns took advantage of the popular uprising against Saddam to flee, often on foot, to safety in liberated Kuwait. But by yesterday the flow south had stopped. The appearance of the Republican Guard at the first checkpoint in Iraq hinted that government forces had regained control in the area.

There were reports of Republican Guards moving into Basra with tanks to retake the city after anti-government forces released prisoners from jail and killed several Baath party officials. Those fleeing spoke of gunfire and killings in the street. Some journalists were held for an hour when they ventured further than the final United States checkpoint on Iraqi soil and were stopped by the Republican Guard.

Some Palestinians had punctures picked up on the road heavily pitted with holes from aircraft fire and littered with metal fragments from exploding tanks, lorries and the civilians' cars the soldiers took for their hurried departure from the capital.

Others simply ran out of petrol, which in postwar Kuwait remains a rare commodity. A group of three vehicles, one with a woman clutching a baby, flagged down passing cars in a search for fuel. They were reluctant to say why they were going, beyond the simple reason: "There is too much problem in Kuwait." Nearer to Kuwait City some of the departing caravans appeared to have a Kuwaiti military escort, but it was impossible to say whether they were leaving on their own initiative.

Certainly they appeared to be going for good. Possessions weighed down the cars, most of which had their registration plates removed. One US soldier manning a checkpoint confirmed that a steady stream had started early in the day and that it was the first on which such traffic had gone through. "I'm surprised they haven't taken the kitchen sink with them, they have taken everything else."

Whether the Palestinians in Kuwait, estimated to be around 400,000, know the events going on in Iraq is impossible to tell. With no power in the city for months and shortage of batteries for radios, few people have access to news, but many have suffered severe beatings at the hands of the Kuwaiti army and resistance bent on reprisal, despite assurances from the government that only those who collaborated will be punished after a fair trial.

Michael Weston, the British ambassador, believes they will simply be expelled, but there are rumours of plans for military tribunals with the sentence of execution. In Hawally, the Palestinian sector, the scene seems to suggest that those seeking out the informers and collaborators establish nationality before they act rather than complicity.

Islamic state 'will replace Saddam'

From Juan Carlos Gumucio in Madrid

A KEY Iraq opposition leader yesterday forecast the establishment of an Islamic government in Baghdad after the downfall of President Saddam Hussein, boldly reaffirming the belief that free elections in Iraq would give unprecedented power to Shia Muslim revolutionaries.

Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, who heads the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, told Madrid's *El País* newspaper that he was confident a fundamentalist system would be adopted and that it would reflect the will of the Iraqi people.

Rebels in southern Iraq, he said, were driven by "a Muslim impulse and are marching on the road of revolutionary Muslim leadership". Asked if he would establish a revolutionary Islamic government, a popular cause among Iraq's Shia Muslim majority, Ayatollah al-Hakim replied: "Yes. We want to form a government through free elections. Since we know that the Iraqi people are Islamic, we think that the future government of Iraq will be Islamic, too."

The cleric, aged 52, who escaped to Iran after Iraqi agents murdered 22 of his relatives in a purge against the opposition al-Dawa al-Islamiyah (The Islamic Call) party in the late 1970s, said he planned to return to Iraq "as soon as possible".

The ayatollah said the Kurds confronting Iraqi troops in the north were co-ordinating operations with the Shia Muslim rebels.

The ayatollah's remarks contradict efforts by several opposition figures to portray moderation in future politics, in order to win Western support.

UNITED STATES

Feelings mixed over Iraq uprising

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

WASHINGTON privately views the uprisings in southern Iraq with trepidation as much as hope, despite its strong desire to see President Saddam Hussein overthrown.

While the Bush administration expects that forces loyal to Saddam will crush the unrest, officials have to consider the possibility that Islamic fundamentalists aligned with Iran could take power. Alternatively, Iraq could be plunged into a protracted, three-sided civil war, with the Kurds seeking autonomy in the north, that could break up the country and destabilise the region.

"There is a sense in Washington that anyone would be better than Saddam," said Daniel Pipes, director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, yesterday. "On the other hand, the stability, security and territorial integrity of Iraq are probably even more important." Joel Wit, an expert on security issues at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said: "What everyone feared might happen may be beginning. If a Shia opposition took over, you could end up with an Iraq that might be even more hostile to the West than Saddam Hussein was."

On the positive side, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, who is widely reported to be involved in the uprisings, is part of a new coalition with the Kurds that is outwardly committed to a democratic Iraq. Officials argue that Iraqi Shias are not automatically anti-Western as their Iranian counterparts were.

James Baker, the Secretary of State, leaves for the Middle East tomorrow to try to resuscitate the Arab-Israeli peace process, but experts say the administration, preoccupied with winning the war, has given little thought to the more pressing problem of postwar Iraq.

Publicly, officials say Iraq's future is a matter for the Iraqis, but America has a strong interest in preserving Iraq's stability and territory and its best hope appears to be that Saddam will be toppled by a "clean-shaven Colonel X" from within the military.

Saudi Arabia is reported to be working with a group of exiles which it hopes could form a government and take power, though none seems to have much of a following in Iraq. The four names being mentioned are: General Hassan Naqib, a former commander of Iraqi forces in Jordan, Ibrahim ad-Daoud, a former defence minister and head of the Republican Guard, Abdel-Ghani Hrawi, a former general involved in an abortive coup against Saddam in 1970, and Saad Jabr, the son of a former Iraqi prime minister.

In Washington yesterday, it was unclear to what extent the Iranians were fomenting the unrest in southern Iraq. Shia Muslims, largely concentrated in the south, are numerically dominant, but minority Sunni Arabs have long dominated Iraq's political and military establishments.

KUWAIT CITY NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Driven over a black-market barrel for £21 a gallon

The greatest irony of the Gulf war and its painful aftermath is that, in one of the richest oil-producing areas in the world, the product apart from water which is now in shortest supply and greatest demand is petrol.

While the ominous black cloud caused by more than 500 oil-well fires hangs over the southern outskirts of Kuwait City, residents, journalists and soldiers alike struggle to find a source of supply for petrol. Although it is being given away free at the few filling stations still open and relatively unvandalised by the Iraqis, the crowds are so enormous it can take a whole day to fill one five-gallon can.

Whispered directions are given by grateful Kuwaitis to Westerners whom they genuinely want to help, but the Catch-22 is that once the petrol-consuming journey has been made to find the alleged source, it frequently turns out to have been a mirage. On the black market, the going rate is $200 (£105) for five gallons, with American television networks being charged more. To escape the problem, they have begun ordering in bulk and sending up tankers from neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

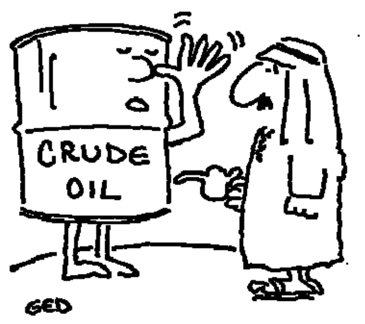
Such was the wanton destruction of Kuwait's 950 oil wells that all are either on fire or damaged by explosives. Officials estimate that it will be at least nine months before sufficient work has been done to enable the liberated emirate to begin its exports of crude again.

"Nobody knows how many wells are on fire because you cannot get near them. Everywhere is mined," said an official of the Kuwait Oil Company. "An aerial survey will be completed next week and we will then have a clearer picture before firefighting and repairs begin."

As well as the toxic plumes of black smoke shooting into the sky, the fires produce a menacing roar which shakes the desert sand for miles around and adds to perhaps the most convincing impression given on earth of how hell might be.

A rich and jubilant Kuwaiti arived at the dusty car park behind the reoccupied British embassy recently clutching bottles of whisky which he generously handed from his car to those present as an appreciation of their efforts in throwing out the Iraqis. It was a sign that the strict anti-alcohol laws, which made Kuwait, along with Saudi Arabi, Iran and Libya, the only dry states in the region may soon come under severe strain.

Some British officers have already celebrated their departure from Saudi Arabia by carrying full hip flasks, while Americans have found a supply of beer. The Western influence failed to change much in Saudi Arabia, but the ground is more fertile in Kuwait where Islamic rules are treated with relative laxity in the *diwanyas* – traditional male meeting places attached to most large houses.



"They cannot provide sufficient law and order to stop anti-Palestinian revenge squads roaming the streets, so it does not seem to me they are going to be able to stop us drinking," said one American correspondent, gulping from a bottle of scotch that had been provided by a Kuwaiti contact.

According to military sources, allied commanders have insisted that less strict Islamic rules be imposed if some Western forces are to stay on in a peacekeeping role. Unlike the Saudi *mutawa*, there has been no sign of any Kuwaiti religious police anxious to impose Muslim laws. Once the royal family returns, it is expected that alcohol will become available through private suppliers given a large nod and wink, but remain banned for public sale and for consumption on the national carrier, Kuwait Airways.

Although Kuwait has long lived in the shadow of Saudi Arabia, its women always enjoyed greater personal and professional freedom than their Saudi sisters, with many holding government positions and, for instance, driving their own cars. Few wore the all-enveloping black robes that have caused the GIs to nickname Saudi females "Ninja Turtles". The fortitude with which women stood up to the occupation and the increasing Western influence resulting from the liberation is expected to accelerate female emancipation. Pressure is already building up for women to be given the vote in elections expected within the next 12 months. First-time visitors have been amazed at the openness of the women, many of whom have been blowing kisses at the allied troops and openly flirting from the expensive Western cars in which they have been touring the streets.

Banker says al-Sabahs have hit list of democrats

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON
AND ELAINE FOGG IN LONDON

A PROMINENT Kuwaiti banker alleged yesterday that Kuwait's ruling family has drawn up a hit list of members of the country's democratic opposition and hired assassins to kill them.

Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank of Kuwait, the country's second largest, said in an American interview that the democracy movement believed some members of the ruling al-Sabahs had set up assassination squads in Kuwait.

"We have heard that certain members in certain Arab countries have formed militias of some Kuwaitis and mercenaries with the intended aim of forcing their rule on Kuwait," Dr Abdul Aziz said on ABC's *Nightline* programme. He added that they believed that other members of the family intended to send the militias to Kuwait to assassinate prominent pro-democracy activists.

Dr Abdul Aziz said one member of the al-Sabah family had assembled a private militia of about 3,000 people. He added that he was making his accusations public in the hope they would forestall violence.

There are conflicting reports about the militias, with some putting their size at anywhere between 3,000 and 10,000. The militias are believed to have been behind the attempt to assassinate Hamad al-Jouaan, a lawyer and a prominent member of the Kuwaiti democratic movement. He was shot last Thursday when he answered a call at the door of his house in Kuwait City.

The leader of the democracy movement based in London, Ahmed al-Khatib, who was also a former national assembly deputy, said it was "common knowledge" that Syria was a training base for the militias. He said he could not supply further details, but that he had raised the issue at a cabinet meeting last month in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Dr al-Khatib said the democracy movement had known for many months that the al-Sabah family had organised protection. "We passed this information on to the US and British governments a few months ago," he said, adding that Scotland Yard officers had offered him advice three weeks ago on extra security precautions at his home after an incident involving his car.

Dr al-Khatib, who contends that there are around 650 adult men in the ruling family, said the al-Sabahs had tightened their grip over administrative affairs while in exile. Another opposition source was quoted last week as saying that Khaled Jaber al-Sabah, a brother of the emir, was placed in charge of the Kuwaiti embassy in London over the head of the ambassador.

"The security police could be seen in the embassy soon after the invasion. When I went to the embassy to hand in my passport I bumped into the man who looked after my rooms when I was jailed for five days in May 1990," said Dr al-Khatib.

Donna Sultan, the American wife of Dr Abdul Aziz, who also owns a supermarket in Kuwait, the Sultan Centre, said the broadcast was the first time she had seen her husband for six and a half months.

Speaking from Boston, she said: "I had been tipped off by ABC that he would be appearing and there he was making these bombshell remarks. Abdul Aziz is not the kind of man to make a statement based on heresay."

Later in the programme Sheikh Saud Nasir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ambasador in Washington, said he was "extremely disappointed" with the banker's accusations, and that such talk could "drive a wedge between the Kuwaiti people".

Curfew is imposed in Kuwait

Nicosia — Kuwait's rulers imposed an indefinite night curfew yesterday, a week after the occupying Iraqi troops had fled. The official Kuwait news agency Kuna, received in Cyprus, said the curfew would be in force between 10pm and 4am (20.00-02.00 GMT). The report said the curfew was imposed "to complete security and stability aspects in the country".

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, last week imposed martial law for three months and appointed his Crown Prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, military governor-general. Sheikh Saad returned to Kuwait on Monday, the first senior member of the ruling family to do so. The emir is still in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Israeli Scud toll

Jerusalem — Two Israelis were killed and 239 injured by Iraqi missile attacks during the Gulf war, the army said in its final casualty toll. It said another 13 Israelis had died of heart attacks or from misusing their gas masks during the missile raids. The Iraqis fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state in 18 attacks between January 18 and February 25. They hit northern, southern and central Israel. *(Reuter)*

Buried wealth

Kuwait City — A Kuwaiti millionaire who preserved his wealth during the invasion by burying much of it in his garden invited an Agence France-Presse reporter yesterday to witness the unearthing of a package, about the size of a football, that contained the equivalent of £160,000 in Kuwaiti dinars. *(AFP)*

Filipino priority

Manila — Filipino workers will receive priority in applying to fulfil the manpower needs of Saudi Arabia for postwar reconstruction, said Muhammad Ibrahim Masoud, Saudi minister of state, on a visit to the Philippines. *(AFP)*

Fear of mines still stalks the troops

From REUTER IN DHAHRAN

THE muzzle of Dave Wieczorek's machinegun was stuck in the sand. His helmet rested on the weapon, his boots beside it. At a simple memorial service in the Iraqi desert, Charlie Company gathered round to pay tribute to the 20-year-old from Gentry, Arkansas, who died after stepping on a US cluster bomb.

"The army teaches you to walk with head held high. From now on, I look at the ground," Private Mike Jones, aged 20, from Dallas, Texas, told reporters at the front. Private Jones, still tortured by the memory, had grasped Wieczorek's hand as the young man's life ebbed away.

Since the land war ended, 11 American soldiers have been killed and three wounded, US military officials said. In a war with such low casualties — about 160 allied troops were killed in the fighting — it is a heartbreakingly high figure.

Deaths have ranged from landmine explosions to a helicopter crash. One soldier accidentally shot dead a colleague while cleaning his 45 pistol.

Major Marie Rossi, one of the first women soldiers to cross into Iraq, was an army pilot from New Jersey who died when her Chinook helicopter crashed last Friday.

US Marine Rodney Ramsey, a 22-year-old from Bassett, Virginia, was one of the lucky ones who lived to tell his tale of being blown up by a landmine.

Recovering at a base hospital in Saudi Arabia, he said: "There are mines everywhere out there in Kuwait. The desert wind blows and covers them up. Most of us are in a kind of relaxed mood. The war is over. But you have to keep the mines in mind. The desert is very dangerous."

That thought was heartily echoed in the Iraqi desert by Major Ronald Griffith, commander of the US 1st Armoured Division, who said: "We've got to get out of this minefield we are living in. There is nothing out here I want to stay for. We have done our job."

Just yards from his headquarters in the desert, the fin of a US bomb protruded from the sand. It had been hastily fenced off to stop soldiers stepping on it.

Names and numbers: a Kuwaiti official, working with the American military, holding the passports of several men lined up yesterday at a checkpoint near Kuwait City in oil-laden heavy rain. The authorities are hunting for Iraqi soldiers trying to escape and people seeking to enter the country illegally amid the great movement of refugees. The black, driving rain and premature nightfall, brought on by hundreds of oil well fires, added to the despair of Palestinians who took to the roads to flee Kuwait for an uncertain future in Iraq (Lin Jenkins writes from Safwan, southern Iraq). At the nearby border, on the road to Basra, they arrived in long convoys. Their meagre possessions, tied precariously in cardboard boxes and stored on car roofs, were soaking wet under the inadequate protection of blankets. The hurried departure reflected their fear of violent reprisals for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's support of President Saddam Hussein.

ENVIRONMENT

Oil pollution casts financial pall on emirate

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT is facing an environmental nightmare, with tons of toxins pouring into the air daily and a huge oil slick lapping its coastline. The Iraqi sabotage that caused the problems also hurt Kuwait's economy so extensively that the emirate lacks the money to clean up the pollution.

"The magnitude of the problem is beyond the capacity of Kuwait, administratively, technically and financially," said Musab Aly Aseen, the Kuwait Oil Company's superintendent of oil resovoirs at the Greater Burgan oil fields, 25 miles south of Kuwait City. "It's a total catastrophe."

Greater Burgan is one of the world's largest oil fields. The Iraqis set alight almost all of the 654 wells two days before the allies launched the ground war to liberate Kuwait, Mr Aly Aseen said. Driving toward the infernos, the colour of the sky darkens from deep blue to ashen gray to midnight black within the space of miles. Because no sunlight has been reaching the desert floor, the temperature in Greater Burgan at midday was about 5C (41F), considerably cooler than in nearby Kuwait City.

Streaks of fire shoot hundreds of feet into the air, roaring like jet fighter planes and releasing acrid black smoke. Soot falls like black snowflakes. Pools of leaking oil form fiery lakes. Dozens of unattended cattle searching for food pass by, their white hides covered with soot.

"The effect on the ozone, the ecology, the marine life is massive. We aren't even breathing air here, just smog," said Ali al-Qabandi, of the Kuwait Oil Company.

Some of the burning wells in western Kuwait have a relatively high concentration of hydrogen sulphide, a toxic gas, Mr Aly Aseen said, that is soluble in water. Fortunately, few people live in the area.

In the waters of the Gulf, oil released by the Iraqis from a Kuwaiti terminal, estimated at up to two million barrels, has been partially contained but not cleaned up. The spill already has killed thousands of birds and marine life.

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Major finds Gorbachev a man to do business with

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

JOHN Major left Moscow last night apparently confident that he had rekindled the special relationship enjoyed by his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, and President Gorbachev. Altogether, Mr Major spent four hours with the Soviet leader, including a working lunch and talks which he described afterwards as "enjoyable and interesting".

"The United Kingdom can continue to do business with Mr Gorbachev in a very satisfactory manner," he told a final press conference, echoing Mrs Thatcher's phrase. He said that his talks had been at times "intense", especially on the question of independence for the Baltic republics, but added: "I don't mean ill-humoured, but frank and free ... candid, but good-natured."

President Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, said, after attending the lunch, that the talks had been "very friendly and very open". He said: "A very good relationship is forming ... indeed, has already been formed." As if confirming this impression, Mr Major said that Mr Gorbachev had accepted his invitation to visit Britain soon and that he had been invited back to Moscow.

Both Mr Ignatenko and Mr Major were keen to emphasise the broad agreement between the two countries about post-war policy in the Gulf. The widest divergences emerged on arms control and policy towards the Baltic republics.

Mr Major told reporters that there was still a gap on Baltic policy, but there is agreement about how that gap is to be bridged — through negotiation. He expressed satisfaction that "at the end of negotiations, conducted through the constitutional process, the prospect of independence was there".

Troop inspection: an honour guard watching John Major pass through their ranks yesterday before laying a wreath to Soviet war dead. He is the first leader of the anti-Iraqi alliance to visit the Kremlin since the Gulf conflict

Shadow of Iron Lady fades in Moscow sun

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN MOSCOW

SHE was not there again yesterday, but a presence remained. Having successfully got through an EC summit, a bilateral at Camp David with President Bush and a Gulf foray to cheer British troops, John Major had one more hurdle to overcome in proving that he can do anything Margaret Thatcher could do — a meeting in the Kremlin with President Gorbachev, the man she star-spotted for the West.

On occasions they could scarcely bear to be torn apart. Banquets were left simmering on the stove, connections missed, and once the second half of a Moscow ballet performance was held up.

But after four hours of what he called "sometimes intense talks", which ended with them swapping invitations for official visits, Mr Major had clearly leaped the latest hurdle, too.

His final emergence from the shadow was marked deftly with an in-joke, when he told the Moscow press conference in relation to their exchanges on the thorny question of conventional force reductions that Mr Gorbachev had admitted: "There is no alternative." Oh Tina, where are you now?

Certainly the pace remains one which Mrs Thatcher would approve. Having arrived late the night before, the prime minister took breakfast at 8am with representatives of the Baltic republics. By 9.15, well prepared because he had read the full IMF report on the Soviet economy, he was tucking into local liberals and radicals, ranging from the mayor of Leningrad through the director of Moscow's aviation institute to Dr Alexei Arbatov from the Institute of World Economic Affairs.

He is developing the Thatcher habit of "get me a good intellectual on that". They told him in response to his enquiries that the only thing the Soviet Union knew still about monetary theory was counting rouble notes.

He told them that economic reform would get nowhere without privatisation and the private ownership of land. Doubting Tory right-wingers please note.

There was, too, a touch of the old-style one-upmanship when Mr Major was the only coatless figure at the wreath-laying ceremony beside the tomb of the unknown warrior. It was sunny but freezing. Perhaps the Huntingdon corner shop does a good line in thermals.

Thatcher: first to spot Gorbachev's star quality

In the afternoon, after the Gorbachev talks and lunch, Mr Major packed in meetings with the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, the defence minister, Dmitri Yazov, and the foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, before giving a press conference which was hugely attended by Moscow's standards, better in fact than on Mrs Thatcher's last appearance in the Soviet capital. But then he had been awarded a quarter-hour profile on local TV the night before.

What followed was anodyne and cautious. Mr Major may have trouble winning quite so much attention next time in Moscow, with the novelty value gone.

Pakistanis withdraw confessions

Karachi — Four witnesses in a murder case against Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan, recanted confessions they say they were forced to make by torture.

Zahid Saeed, a youth leader of her Pakistan People's Party, and three others told an anti-terrorist court they were made to sign confessions implicating Mr Zardari. A businessman aged 38, Mr Zardari is facing trial for alleged involvement in the killings last August of 28 supporters of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement party. He was charged with murder last month, after Mr Saeed's confession. *(AP)*

Refugee search

Otranto, Italy — A search was under way for a boat carrying 25 Albanians after it sent out a distress call in the Adriatic. More than 800 Albanians have already fled by boat to the Italian ports of Otranto and Brindisi in the past two weeks as tensions have risen in Albania. The port authorities in Brindisi warned all vessels in the region to stand by to help with possible rescues. *(AFP)*

Tigers bombed

Colombo — The Sri Lankan air force bombed hideouts of Tamil Tiger guerrillas suspected of killing Ranjan Wijeratne, the deputy defence minister, who was among up to 33 people who died when a bomb exploded in his car last weekend. Air force targets in the Jaffna peninsula included camps and ammunition factories of the rebels. *(Reuter)*

Korea elections

Seoul — President Roh Tae Woo has announced that South Korea's first local elections for 30 years will be held on March 26. He urged people to help keep the elections fair and put corruption and scandals behind them. "This election will be a stepping stone for future political development," he said. *(AP)*

Trendy Americans decide to go native

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Indians are making their biggest comeback since Custer's Last Stand at Little Big Horn. Preliminary results from last year's census show that the number of Americans claiming Indian blood has increased by more than a third in the past decade.

"More people are identifying themselves as Indian than did in 1960, 1970 or 1980, and the biggest increase has been in the traditionally non-Indian areas," said David Word, a demographer at the US Census Bureau. Much of the rise in the American Indian population, now estimated at 1.8 million, is attributable to the fact that it is now fashionable to claim Indian ancestry.

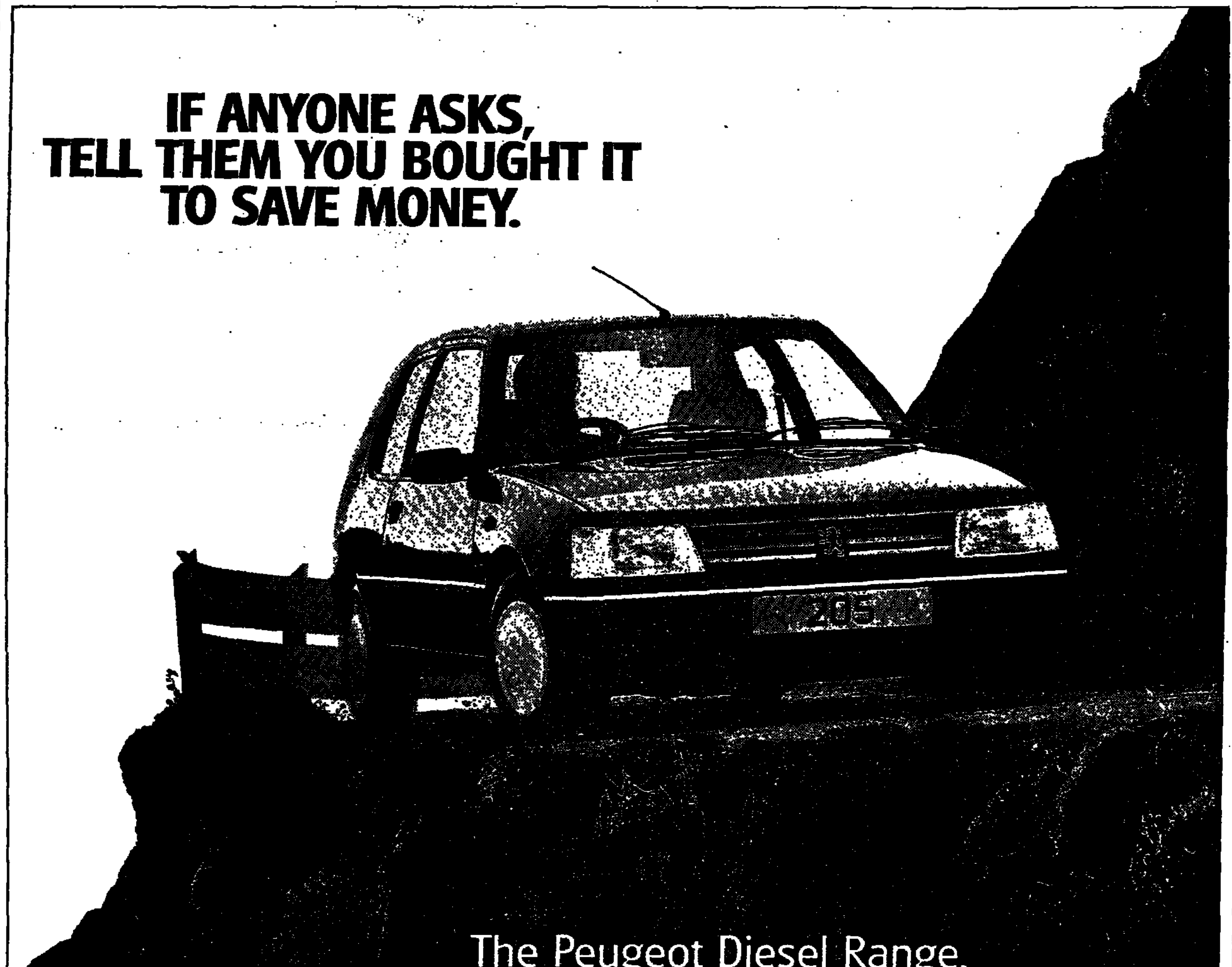
In the 38 states for which figures are available, the 1990 ethnic breakdown shows an increase of 38 per cent from 1980 in the number of people identifying themselves as American Indian. Some of the sharpest rises are in states with few Indians — 118 per cent in Alabama and 78 per cent in New Jersey.

Jeffrey Passel, who follows the Indian population for the Urban Institute in Washington, said: "Between the 1960 and 1970 censuses we saw a significant shift, but not as great as what has happened since. That coincided with a resurgence of the native American movement in the late 60s. That was the beginning of a greater awareness in general in the United States of ethnic background."

Mr Passel says only two-thirds of the increase in the 1980s can be explained by high fertility. More people who once "passed" as white are asserting their Indian heritage. Tribal officials report growing attendance at Indian cultural events, such as traditional pow-wows, and museums complain that more and more people are claiming the return of the remains of their American Indian ancestors.

Added to the sense of spiritual wholeness, however are some strictly financial concerns. People of Indian heritage can claim government grants for college fees, assistance with health care, hunting and fishing rights and eligibility for government contracts. In one case, a Californian who was one sixty-fourth American Indian won a $19 million contract (£10.05 million) set aside for minority-owned businesses by the Los Angeles public transport authority.

The census form does not require proof of Indian ancestry. Although some tribes require applicants to prove they are one-half Indian, others admit members with a claim to as little as one-two-thousandth.



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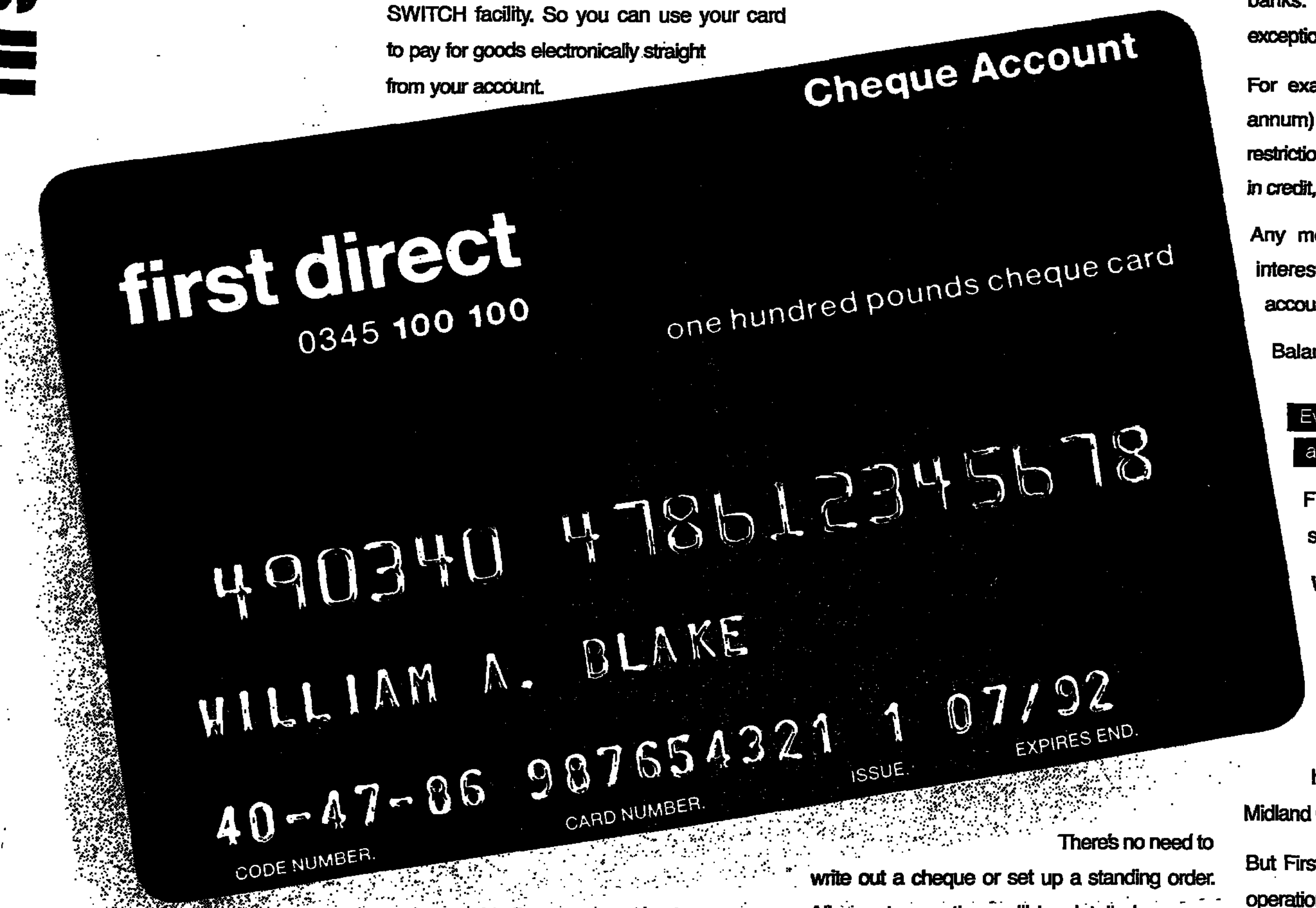

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Mandela witnesses may break their silence

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO key witnesses, afraid to testify against Winnie Mandela, have been placed under police protection, raising the possibility that they will now give evidence when her trial on kidnap and serious assault charges resumes today after a three-week adjournment.

The proceedings against Mrs Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, ground to a halt last month when Kenneth Kgase, aged 31, and Barend Mono, aged 21, told the supreme court in Johannesburg that they feared for their lives. The police have failed to trace a third witness, Gabriel Mekgwe, aged 22, who was last seen being escorted from a church mission in Soweto by ANC members.

All three are plaintiffs in the case. It is alleged that Mrs Mandela and seven others abducted and repeatedly assaulted them. The leader of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards, known as the Mandela football club, was sentenced to death last August for murdering a youth kidnapped at the same time.

The South African government has applied to Botswana for the extradition of three of four co-accused bodyguards who skipped bail and disappeared in January. They were reported to have been seen at a Botswana refugee camp used by the ANC.

The first public cracks in solidarity with Mrs Mandela appeared this week when two prominent anti-apartheid organisations expressed concern at ANC attitudes to the trial. Black Sash, a national grouping of mainly white women which identifies with black aspirations, said the apparent indifference of the ANC to the kidnapping and intimidation of witnesses was disturbing. Barbara Buntman, who chairs the Five Freedoms Forum, took the unusual step of castigating the ANC in a local newspaper article.

In a related development, a journalist was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment yesterday for refusing to disclose his sources for a report concerning Mrs Mandela's trial. Patrick Laurence, aged 53, a senior reporter for *The Star* in Johannesburg and a correspondent for foreign newspapers, implicated ANC members in the disappearance of Mr Mekgwe. Passing sentence, the magistrate said it should not be regarded as punishment, but rather as a measure to induce Mr Laurence to reveal his sources.

First ANC exiles due back today

From GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

MORE than 100 members of the African National Congress who fled South Africa under apartheid are due to return tomorrow in the first organised repatriation of exiles under a general amnesty declared by the government last year.

Political and bureaucratic arguments have delayed the return of an estimated 40,000 exiles, about half of them ANC members, which was due to have been completed by the end of next month. Gene Louw, the minister of home affairs, reported progress yesterday in intensive discussions with the ANC and said the first 108 exiles would fly home tomorrow. Five further flights at weekly intervals had been arranged. The first group was embarking at Lusaka, Zambia.

The repatriation will fulfil one of the ANC's preconditions for entering into negotiations concerning a new constitution.

Cash check: President Chamorro of Nicaragua giving money to people as she leaves a supermarket where she had been checking food prices (Our Foreign Staff writes). She was told by one of the staff that the shop's 45 workers would be sacked next week. Señora Violeta Chamorro, whose government has announced severe austerity measures with an 80 per cent devaluation of the córdoba to cut 13,000 per cent inflation, promised the staff would not be fired.

Brazilian union chief shot

From LOUISE BYRNE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A UNION leader was shot in the Amazonian town of Rio Maria on Monday, the latest victim of rural violence in Brazil which has killed more than 1,600 people in the past 26 years.

Carlos Cabral, aged 30, was shot and wounded as he returned home from a meeting at the local priest's house. Senhor Cabral is the third president of the Rio Maria Rural Workers' Union to be shot. His predecessor was murdered a month ago and the union founder, Senhor Cabral's father-in-law, João Canuto, was killed in 1985.

Rio Maria is in a region considered the most violent rural area in Brazil. In the past ten years more than 170 peasant farmers, union leaders, clergymen and politicians have been killed in a frontier region which joins the three Amazonian states of Pará, Tocantins and Maranhão, most in the conflict over land. In Acre, rubber tapper and union leader Chico Mendes became the most famous victim of the landowners because of his pro-ecology views.

Last April Father Ricardo Rezende, who has lived in Pará for 13 years, called for police protection for both Senhor Cabral and his predecessor, later murdered. State police were in the region for several months, but were then removed.

In Rio de Janeiro last week, Father Rezende, aged 38, whose life has also been threatened by local ranch owners, said there would be no peace in the region until ranch owners were disarmed and the government carried out widespread agrarian reform. "The government of President Fernando Collor de Mello has now been in power for one year and yet there has been no serious agrarian reform," said Father Rezende, who also visited Brasilia to call for protection for at least seven people in Rio Maria "marked to die".

Chile reveals barbarity of Pinochet years

From LAKE SAGARIS IN SANTIAGO

ONE mother described how her only son was shot in the street; another mother, how she had to explain to her five-year-old that, just as people kill animals, they sometimes kill other human beings. Their evidence was part of a report released this week by President Aylwin of Chile, a powerful condemnation of the deaths of 2,279 people in political violence during the 17-year military rule under General Augusto Pinochet.

The first mother said: "He was shot in the street near our house. I went out and found his body. They shouted at me to bury the dog that had died. That dog was my only son." The other reported: "When my son turned 17, he needed to know where his father was so badly that I said, 'Go to the cemetery, look for the most abandoned grave, care for it as if it were your father's.'"

While victims' relatives welcomed the report by the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, they said that those responsible must be tried, including General Pinochet, president between 1973 and 1990, and now army commander-in-chief. Political parties, including General Pinochet's former supporters, cautiously praised the report. There has been no public response from the armed forces.

The report includes 132 members of the security forces among the victims, but criticises Chile's officers for their ignorance of the laws and morality of war. The commission said 70 per cent of the 2,279 who died were aged under 30. It was unable to reach conclusions in another 1,000 cases. Victims ranged from a 15-day-old baby to a grandmother, aged 85, who died during national protests against the military regime.

In a national broadcast, Señor Aylwin endorsed the commission's criticism of the courts, which they accused of "aggravating the process of systematic human rights violations by not providing those arrested with protection, as well as granting repressive agents a growing certainty of impunity for their criminal actions". The commission did not name those responsible, although they are generally known. Cases must be tried in the same courts which supported the military government. President Aylwin, however, urged judges to change and announced that reforms are under way.

The president said victims' families would be compensated. An organisation would be created to continue the search for remains and an independent ombudsman appointed to defend human rights.

President Aylwin called on the armed forces to reveal all they knew about the 957 who disappeared. Their bodies, according to the report, were blown up, hidden in abandoned mines and secret cemeteries, or thrown into rivers or the sea.

The commission, which held hearings for nine months, found that people were killed for revenge, mistaken identity, for passing messages to imprisoned relatives during visits and for ceasing to co-operate with the regime. Common criminals were murdered from a "perverse concept of the idea of maintaining order. In quite a few cases, torture was practised not as part of interrogation but rather as an expression of cruelty and the lowest passions of an agent or guard".

Aylwin: endorsed report's criticism of the courts

Sedition trial for Kenyan editor

Nairobi – The editor of a magazine that has advocated multiparty politics in Kenya has been charged with sedition and violation of Kenya's publishing laws. Gitobu Imanyara, aged 38, editor of *The Nairobi Law Monthly*, pleaded not guilty. He faces up to 10 years' imprisonment if convicted of sedition.

Also charged was Dominic Martin, a Briton, who was accused of printing the magazine while no cash bond for it had been deposited.

The sedition charge stems from a leading article in the February issue of the magazine that discussed tribal distribution of jobs in government departments and state corporations and implied that members of President Daniel arap Moi's tribe, the Kalenjin, were favoured in the job allocations. *(AP)*

Camp shooting

Bangkok – Thai soldiers opened fire on Vietnamese refugees who went on a rampage at Phanat Nikhom holding camp east of here in protest at their forcible repatriation. United Nations officials said five refugees received bullet wounds and another man was injured when he set fire to himself. But the officials denied reports that two refugees were killed in Monday's incident.

Treason charges

Lisbon – The trial has begun of José de Almeida, leader of the now largely inactive Azores Liberation Front, on treason charges arising from a press conference in Lisbon in 1986 at which he said that the only way to end the problems between mainland Portugal and the Azores was for the islands to be independent.

Thailand plea

Bangkok – The United States called formally for the release of the deposed Thai prime minister, Chatichai Choonhavan, following his arrest by the military in a coup 10 days ago. The US envoy also expressed hope that the process of a return to an elected civilian government would be prompt. *(AFP)*

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English? That's fighting talk

From the Gulf to the Baltic, anyone wishing to catch the world's ear must do so in English.

Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, reports

English is already the language of commerce, aviation, and international organisations. Now it is also the language of war. The world tuned in to the Gulf conflict in English. The briefings, the blitzes and the bombast were delivered in a single language that united the world in a common engagement. Saddam Hussein's speeches were subtitled in English. Bombs rained on Baghdad and Scuds fell on Riyadh while correspondents ducked and dodged to broadcast the dramatic events in English. Saudi colonels briefed fellow Arabs as well as the allied press pools in the familiar jargon of Pentagon English.

More than any other event, the war highlighted how much English has become the international medium of communication over the past 20 years. Almost all the officers of the Arab forces were able to tell CNN correspondents what their forces were doing. Kuwaiti exiles demonstrated a perfect command of the language as they vividly described their country's plight. Even the wretched Iraqi prisoners had a smattering of English — enough to call out as they walked across allied lines, or to understand the curt instructions of burly American captors. Germans interviewed Saudis, Russians negotiated with Iraqis, Japanese justified their absence in the same language.

Those without English fell casualty to the Anglo-Saxon monopoly. French officers, commanding 12,000 men in the field, began giving briefings in French. But virtually nobody apart from the French correspondents turned up. Little appeared of the French engagements or achievements in the world's press. Eventually the French switched to English. David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, speaks good French but no English. As a result, he barely appeared on television, and Israel's policy statements were delivered mainly by his deputy, Benjamin Netanyahu, causing considerable political friction within Israel. As for the smooth-tongued Iraqi ambassador to Paris, he won the reputation of being Iraq's senior diplomat in Europe mainly because it was left to him to improvise policy before the cameras. His camera-shy colleague in London was rarely sought out for interview as he was not so fluent.

Of course the ubiquitous presence of CNN, the Atlanta-based news channel, has reinforced the English-only rule. Never have war and the long prelude to it been conducted so much in the open and so much on television. And television has no time for translation, as Iraqi propagandists knew.

Mastery of English is now a prerequisite for any statesman aspiring to a world role. One reason Aleksandr Bessmertnykh was picked to succeed Eduard Shevardnadze as Soviet foreign minister was that he had served long in the United States and could talk to Washington and the rest of the world without Pavel Palaschenko, President Gorbachev's moustached senior diplomat, hovering in the background to translate. Hans-Dietrich Genscher decided after some years in office as West German foreign minister that he could no longer get by with just his native language. He applied himself with typical dedication, and now speaks passable (though strongly accented) English. And France, the stereotype of a country that takes its language as a matter of deep national pride, now produces ministers who mostly speak with the same elegance and precision in English as they do in French. Perhaps the culmination of the trend can be seen in the European Free Trade Association, the seven-nation body now negotiating new trading arrangements with the European Community. Although none of the Scandinavian or Alpine members speaks native English, that is their only official language of communication.

KGB, HANDS OFF VILNIUS DISTRICT!

United by a common language: Lithuanian independence protesters display a media-friendly placard in Vilnius

The world's oppressed have quickly learnt how to get their message across. Almost any demonstration intended to catch the cameras now has its sprinkling of English slogans. The Lithuanians hold up their placards calling on "Gorby" to go home, or demanding "freedom for Lithuania". Nowhere does this seem more bizarre than in the heart of Moscow itself, where demonstrators against communism proclaim their defiance in a language once reserved for communism's ideological enemies.

The result, of course, is to make Anglophones ever lazier at learning the language of others. Douglas Hurd, a former career diplomat, can speak Mandarin Chinese, good French and Italian. Chris Patten can manage a speech in Spanish. But only about half the rest of the cabinet can speak enough French to hold talks or give a speech.

War is the ultimate test of a language. In the past, wars were largely wordless affairs, and it often helped if the enemy could not understand the bloodcurdling cries of vengeance uttered by one side as it charged into the swords or guns of the other. Today, wars are mostly political, and politics depends on deft use of propaganda and rhetoric. In the wars of words, English is the preferred weapon.

Musical chairs begins for editors

Changes at the top in the *Daily Mirror* could have a knock-on effect

STAFF at the *Daily Mirror*, who watched their former editor Roy Greenslade joke about needing a new job as he pulled pints at the local Vagabond pub on Monday after clearing his desk, are now taking bets on who might take over from the new acting editor, Charles Wilson. Mr Wilson is the former editor of *The Times* and current editor-in-chief of *Sporting Life*.

"Any upheaval of this sort always brings with it a great deal of speculation. Charlie Wilson will be there long enough for us to find the right editor for the *Daily Mirror*," says Roger Eastoe, the deputy managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers.

The newspaper industry is already busy watching the vacant editor's seat at the *Sunday Express*, following the dismissal of Robin Morgan two weeks ago. Eve Pollard, the editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, tipped as a candidate for the *Sunday Express*, has also emerged as a favourite for the *Daily Mirror* editorship in the Mirror building. John Bryant, installed three weeks ago as editor of Mr Maxwell's *European* from the *Sunday Correspondent*, is also tipped.

Mr Greenslade is himself now considered likely to be proprietor Lord Stevens's choice as editor of the *Sunday Express*. Meanwhile, David Montgomery, the editor of *Today*, is considered a possible candidate for either the *Mirror* or the *Sunday Express*. Nick Gordon, the editor of *You* magazine, is thought to be one of the stronger candidates for the *Sunday Express* job.

At the Mirror building, rumour also has it that Richard Stott, the former *Daily Mirror* editor and now editor of the *People*, has been told by Mr Maxwell that he can have the *Mirror* editorship back after the planned management buyout of the *People*.

A *Mirror* chapel meeting on Monday night passed a resolution saying it was alarmed at the treatment of Mr Greenslade, who resigned after Mr Maxwell commissioned, and then accepted, a rival TV listings magazine dummy from Peter Jackson, a former *TV Times* editor. Dummies had already been produced in-house by *Mirror* staff.

Noreen Taylor, Mr Greenslade's wife and one of the *Mirror*'s main feature writers, will remain on the tabloid, but John Diamond, the *Mirror* columnist brought in from the *Sunday Times* by Mr Greenslade, is leaving.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MEDIA WATCH

Not quite free

STAFF of *Al-Morabitoun*, the newspaper started during the occupation of Kuwait and later produced weekly from London with backing from Kuwait's information ministry, want it to become a Kuwait national newspaper. Iraqis took or destroyed most broadcasting and printing equipment in Kuwait. However, Radio Kuwait was back on the air on Sunday, and 30,000 extra copies of the London-based newspaper *Sawt al Kuwait* were printed in Saudi Arabia and driven to Kuwait City last Friday.

Before the invasion, Kuwaiti journalists operated under government censorship, but "were still the most free media in the Gulf", according to a Kuwaiti journalist. A return to the constitution of 1962, which guarantees press freedom, has been promised, but last week, the Kuwaiti government announced three months of martial law. Before *al-Morabitoun* can print in Kuwait, it will need a licence from the information ministry.

Money worries

CHANNEL 4's decision to spend £80 million on purpose-built headquarters in London's Victoria has provoked anxiety among independent producers. "Channel 4 has either cancelled or put on ice for a year the majority of independent productions; budgets have also been cut back," says Michael Darlow, the chairman of the Independent Programme Producers Association (IPPA). Channel 4, which relies on independents for 54 per cent of its output, says the move will save it money in the long-term because it will not be paying rent. Channel 4 turned down a chance to buy the old BSB headquarters for a fraction of the price of its new building, arguing it was too small and not linked to adequate transport routes.

Bad taste competition

ZIT, the outrageous comic launched last month to compete with *Viz*, has managed a circulation of more than 250,000 for its first issue. Circulation of *Viz*, now eight years old, is 1.1 million. *Zit*'s latest issue investigates "Iraqna Phobia – Coming Soon to a Country Near You".

TV watchdog

Sir Denis Forman

THE Campaign for Quality Television, set up two years ago to lobby for changes in the broadcasting bill, has relaunched itself as a permanent organisation aimed at ensuring that both the BBC and ITV retain a broad range of high-quality British-made programming. Chaired by Sir Denis Forman, the former Granada chairman, the campaign will monitor the programme promises made by bidders for the new Channel 3 franchises, to ensure that the winners fulfil their obligations. It also plans to campaign to ensure the BBC's funding is both independent and adequate.

Prognosis improves

THE demise of the *Listener*, along with the well-publicised financial woes of *New Statesman & Society*, elicited what may have been premature post-mortems for literary-cum-political weeklies. *Punch*, which suffered a decline in sales for much of the Eighties, lifted its circulation by 5 per cent to 33,038 in the last half of 1990. As *Punch* celebrates its 150th anniversary, it hopes a big promotion campaign will help it reach the 50,000 mark by the end of this year. The *Spectator*, aided by controversial interviews, reported an 8 per cent circulation rise to 39,612 in the same period.

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Saddam will be overthrown only when his own party considers him a liability, **Richard Beeston** writes from Amman

Still better the devil they know, for now

Ceausescu: a regime remarkably similar to that of Saddam

To judge from the reports of his numerous enemies, it is no longer a matter of whether President Saddam Hussein will be overthrown, only of when the defeated Iraqi leader is killed or forced to flee his country into exile.

The Shia Muslim heartland of southern Iraq is in revolt, with exiled opposition leaders claiming a popular uprising sweeping north like an angry bush fire from the southern city of Basra, through the Mesopotamian heartland, towards Baghdad.

To the north, in the country's mountainous Kurdish region, similar claims are beginning to filter out from the confusion of post-war Iraq, with reports of Kurdish rebel successes against the government in the town of Sulaymaniyah near the Iranian border. To Saddam's enemies, both inside and outside the country, the news will come as the answer to decade-old prayers for the downfall of his regime.

Saddam's position does look precarious. The defiant statements of seven months have been abandoned and the regime no longer attempts to disguise its humiliating capitulation as a victory. The Iraqi military has been dismembered in only four days of fighting and the much-vaunted Republican Guard, previously his insurance policy against a coup, has been severely battered. But anyone who writes off the Iraqi leader, or confidently predicts the end of more than 20 years of Baathist rule, is seriously underestimating the cunning and ruthlessness he has frequently displayed.

Although the bulk of Saddam's military machine has been destroyed or captured, he still has a sizeable army and, more important, one of the most pervasive security police networks in existence. Tens of thousands of agents work in four main branches directly responsible to him for the control and monitoring of internal security. Their role for the past 10 years has been to eliminate potential threats to the Baath party and Saddam, a duty they have carried out with grim efficiency to the point where there are no obvious challengers inside the country who could take his place.

The coalition of exiled Iraqi opposition groups, made up of Shia fundamentalists, Kurds, communists and a number of former military officers and politicians, know this better than most, since their supporters in the country have been purged so often that they have little or no infrastructure inside Iraq to mount a credible challenge to Baathist authority.

During the Gulf war with Iran, for instance, Saddam faced the first serious challenge to his leadership when the military position on the battlefield turned against Baghdad. However, by always managing to stay one step ahead of his adversaries, he has survived at least five coup or assassination attempts.

The reports of spontaneous popular revolts across the country would seem to be substantiated by numerous eye-witness accounts, but it is unlikely that the uprising could translate into the removal of Saddam from power unless a credible alternative leadership, with backing from the military and some members of the current hierarchy, emerges.

There is no question that the Iraqi leader is feared and despised. But after ten years in power, too many Iraqis have a vested interest in seeing the continuation of his leadership for the time being. They know that his downfall in a popular revolt would also mean their demise, in what could turn into a bloody settling of scores, with Shias and Kurds seeking revenge against their former Sunni masters.

In particular, the 100,000 members of the Baath party, who have enjoyed special privileges under Saddam's rule, would be reluctant to hasten his overthrow if they believed they would go down with him. During the run-up to the Gulf conflict, Saddam insisted there was no comparison between his rule and that of Nicolae Ceausescu, the late Romanian leader. However, any Romanians familiar with the Iraqi leader's promotion of his personality cult, his reliance on trusted family members to run key positions in government and his dictatorial style, would be astonished by the similarities. If the two regimes are genuinely alike, then the fall of the Romanian dictator may also provide a clue to Saddam's fate.

In Romania the initial spark of unrest began with demonstrations by the minority Hungarian population of Transylvania, and spread into a popular nationwide uprising. Ceausescu was eventually overthrown, but only after members of his leadership in the Communist party and the military decided that he had become a liability.

The same process may now be unfolding in Iraq, with dissatisfied religious and ethnic groups rising up in popular demonstrations against Saddam. But his fate will only be sealed when the Baathists and the military, the very people who have helped to keep him in power, are confident that he can be replaced and that they can continue to rule Iraq.

Life after Kinnock goes

Martin Jacques

Since Mrs Thatcher resigned as prime minister, the chances of a Conservative victory in the next general election have increased, while the prospect of a Labour defeat has grown commensurately. So what would happen should Labour suffer a fourth election defeat in a row?

The implications are likely to be far-reaching. The defeat in 1979 resulted in a powerful advance by the left, and a split. The 1983 defeat heralded a successful offensive against the left, and the beginnings of modernisation, while the 1987 loss produced the policy review, and the adoption of a centrist strategy.

Much would depend on the nature of the defeat. Anything resembling a hung parliament would be greeted as a moral victory, and result in little change. A defeat on the scale of the last two elections would be a catastrophe. However, this seems unlikely. More probable is a Tory majority of about 10-60 seats. Under these circumstances Neil Kinnock would surely resign; two defeats in a row is enough for anyone.

What would the post-Kinnock era be like? Today's Labour party is characterised by little debate, and no obvious alternatives. As a result the party is unlikely to fall apart. After all, if it was able to survive the traumas of 1981-87, it should be able to overcome a relatively narrow election defeat. A section of the left might split away, but this would be of little consequence.

The most likely outcome would be a continuation of the broad contours of the Kinnock era. Present Labour discourse has two polarities. One is the traditional left-right divide. Kinnock has taken the party about as far to the right as it can go, to the point where it is virtually indistinguishable from the new-look Tory government. This has resulted in a chasm between the leadership and the bulk of the membership, who remain well to the left.

The other polarity is more recent, that between conservative and radical. Kinnock's shift to the centre has been characterised by an abandonment of old shibboleths, rather than the creation of anything new. This worked, up to a point, in the late Eighties, but it will not work in future, partly because of the shift in the Tory party and partly because the agenda has moved on. Labour needs to be more willing to take risks. One of the hallmarks of Kinnock's leadership has been its lack of intellectual self-confidence; its search for respectability rather than new solutions.

Whoever succeeds Kinnock, the new leadership is likely to be more self-confident and therefore more radical. The political agenda of the Nineties — social justice, a new collectivism, a new international order, and the problem of an overweaning American military power — is more likely to go with the grain of membership feelings than did the individualism of the Eighties.

The question remains: how radical? Another election defeat will push Labour towards electoral reform and would mean the end of its commitment to the two-party system, which has been a fundamental component of modern labourism. The party would move into new territory. For all his courage and revisionism, Kinnock is a labourist. If it were defeated again, would Labour choose a more competent version of Kinnock, like John Smith or Gordon Brown, to take them into this new era, or would it opt for a potentially post-labourist figure like Robin Cook, who is politically flexible and prepared to take risks? A more competent labourist remains the most likely choice.

The adoption of proportional representation would, in part, be shorthand for a rapprochement with the Liberal Democrats. Labour would, at last, be in the business of party alliances and coalition politics. Whether the Liberal Democrats would respond favourably is another matter. In these days of soft Toryism, Paddy Ashdown and his colleagues might be tempted to look right. But the Liberal party has historically been more anti-Tory than anti-Labour, and the carrot of proportional representation would undoubtedly be hard for them to resist.

As beastly as before?

On the eve of the RSPCA annual report, **Jonathan Clark** asks why advancing civilisation has not seen the end of man's cruelty

In the high noon of Victorian optimism the historian William Lecky wrote: "There are certain virtues that are the natural product of a cultivated society." The advance of civilisation brought with it, among other blessings, the decline of cruelty. After the Somme, Hitler, Stalin, and now Saddam Hussein, we are supposed to reject such views out of hand as wildly optimistic. Cruelty to animals continues despite laws against it, as tomorrow's RSPCA annual report will no doubt show.

Yet the debate is clearly not over: many people still treat such horrific episodes as the Holocaust as aberrations, the result of a conspiracy or an evil individual. Supporters of Amnesty International, the World Council of Churches or the National Council for Civil Liberties still see themselves as part of an advancing process of civilisation; their opponents are pictured as defying the tide of history.

On an empirical level it seems easy to draw up a balance sheet of social harshness. The abolition of judicial torture, the increasing humaneness of criminal punishment, the improvements in conditions for animals, seem to weigh down one scale decisively. But the argument really turns on what is considered admissable evidence to the contrary. What about the increasing numbers of victims of crime? Are nuclear weapons more humane than mustard gas? If our society is less authoritarian, should we balance this against the growth of a cruel subculture of drugs and violence? Are historical processes indeed leading us away from cruelty? Or is it true of cruelty, as it has been claimed to be of toleration, societies do not grow more tolerant, they merely become intolerant of different things?

Lecky's case was not implausible. It distinguished two types of cruelty: that which springs from "callousness and brutality", and that derived from vindictiveness. The first was caused chiefly by "defective realisation": men were unable to picture the suffering of other people and "the intensity of our compassion is usually and chiefly proportioned to the vividness of our realisation".

Sport with animals: Bearbaiting, from Town and Country magazine, 1793

Hence "the most frightful catastrophe in South America, an earthquake, a shipwreck, or a battle, will elicit less compassion than the death of a single individual who has been brought prominently before our eyes.

"Wrapped in the pale winding-sheet of general terms the greatest tragedies of history evoke no vivid images in our minds, and it is only by a great effort of genius that an historian can galvanise them into life." But this would be remedied by "the strengthing of the imagination by intellectual culture". Education could be relied on to produce that "sensitive humanity with which, in proportion to their civilisation, men realise and recoil from cruelty".

The second type of cruelty was "rather a feminine attribute... usually displayed in oppressed and suffering communities, in passionate natures, and in hot climates". It was diminished by "the substitution of a penal system for private revenge", and, implied Lecky, by the ending of political oppression.

Clearly, his analysis was true of some societies and some periods, but to treat it as a universal truth was a Victorian vice, which stemmed partly from the romantic sensibility of the age, partly from a downplaying of religion, ideology and ethnicity. "The chief cause of sectarian animosity," Lecky thought, was the "incapacity of most men to conceive hostile systems in the light in which they appear to their adherents and to enter into the enthusiasm they inspire".

Humanity has shown rather little skill in empathy, if this is the cause. A more obvious source of conflict, however, is the nature of positive beliefs. People often understand their enemies all too well. Lecky's belief that intellectual sympathy "assuages the rancour of controversy" was really an aspect of Victorian agnosticism, the wave of doubt that engulfed intellectuals like Matthew Arnold and Leslie Stephen. It had little to say to secular religions like Marxism and socialism, and less to resurgent Islam.

Equally, Lecky's rationalism gave him only a shallow understanding of the sources of vindictive cruelty within societies. His best historical work, the *History of Ireland in the 18th Century*, was constructed as a tale of English oppression, and to dismiss Irish political violence as "private revenge" was to fail to understand the deeper roots of those practices which ensured their continuance, even in the highly policed 1990s.

Victorian Britain undoubtedly prided itself on its advancing humanity, and regarded the long and successful campaign against cruelty to animals as the model for the elimination of cruelty in other areas. Certainly there were analogies, but in the light of recent research — especially of Keith Thomas's fine book, *Man and the Natural World*, — we must wonder whether the treatment of animals is less an archetypal case than a special case and an achievement from which man has benefited little.

When animals were formally disregarded as incapable of reason, men suffered more who were deficient in reason or culture, being described as "brutish". If slaves or the Irish fared badly at the hands of a culture that mistreated its horses and was addicted to hunting, they did not do that much better from the 18th century onwards, when the English developed a cult of sensibility. Moralists had traditionally condemned cruelty to animals because it brutalised men, not for the pain it caused the animals, and the "man of feeling" similarly related everything to its impact on the observer, not the victim.

"They which love beasts in a high measure have so much less charity to men," Edward Topsell wrote in 1607, and this became steadily more true as the 19th century cult of sensibility developed. Kindness to animals could be a way of reviling the cruelty of men, rather than a way of including both within a common benevolence. Criticism of hunting in the early 19th century was part of an attack on the aristocratic hegemony, and the "malicious wounding" of the gentry's horses, dogs or deer was part of the same phenomenon of social protest.

Even today hunt saboteurs are motivated by class hatred of the huntsmen more than pity for the fox, and animal rights campaigners seem to harass scientists and technicians as the agents of Western capitalism, not as cruel individuals. If genuine altruism is this hard to find, it should surprise us less if cruelty is so good at devising new forms.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I have recently paid a visit to a home for distressed Gulf commentators. Some might find this a harrowing experience, inappropriate for a light-hearted column, but if some good can come out of it, if one or two readers find themselves moved by what I write, then the sacrifice of the odd titter will have been worth it.

Since President Bush ended the war in the Gulf so abruptly last Thursday morning, we have all been witness to the secret tragedy of commentators cut off in mid-sentence, left to wander empty studios or to tap out fierce, incisive columns never to be printed. At least, under the aegis of the International Red Cross, something has been done to help them. Last weekend, on my visit to the Home for Distressed Gulf Commentators at Camberley, Surrey, the first of its kind anywhere in the world, I was a witness to their plight.

I arrived early, the dew sparkling on the lawns, the fitter inmates sitting outside, their wheelchairs glistening in the morning sun, one or two pushing model tanks over makeshift maps of Kuwait with their walking sticks. Above the twitter of birds I could hear the unmistakable chirrup — "Ourlads, Ourlads, Ourlads" — of tabloid leader-writers as the dedicated nurses gave them their sedatives for the day.

Taking a deep breath I walked down the long drive, taking care not to be caught staring at any of the bizarre sights that surrounded me. I averted my eyes, for instance, as I passed a man I immediately recognised from his distraught hair and mad, vacant eyes as "The Voice of Common Sense" on the *Daily Echo*. He kept repeating "Let's show 'em lads, let's show 'em", until a doctor arrived with his pills.

I also pretended not to notice an elderly figure, a retired general, standing in a bed of daffodils, thrusting a stick hither and thither, desperately trying to explain exactly how the daffodils intended to surround and attack a neighbouring bed of snowdrops. The previous Tuesday I had seen that same retired general holding forth on *Newsnight*; now, only a few days later, not a soul was listening. Thank goodness, then, that he had the consolation of knowing that the snowdrops almost certainly could not hold out for more than 48 hours.

I was greeted at the front door by a doctor and a psychiatrist. They set about explaining the aims of the home. "You must remember that these poor folk had just got into the swing of making their predictions on the war," said the psychiatrist. "The cameras were on them, the newspapers listened to their every word. Then — *pffft* — it all came to a halt. They must now experience a period of great anguish before they can readjust to everyday life."

We arrived at a door marked "The Pilger Wing". In the main ward a handful of leading commentators from the *New Statesman* and the *London Review of Books* cowered in their straitjackets, mumbling incoherently: "Imperialist war ... America's iron heel... Set to last well into autumn... Sanctions given no time... Commercial interests... Literally millions set to die".

The doctor explained: "Some of them will never get over it. And that bloke over there," — he pointed to a spindly figure cowering in the corner — "he used to be an international statesman." On closer inspection I realised we were looking at the emaciated face of Mr Denis Healey.

Finally, I was allowed to glimpse the home's rehabilitation wing for television and radio presenters. Here, in a calm and soothing environment, anchormen and anchorwomen from all parts of the British media are able to go about finding some form of fulfilment. "These two have made real progress," explained the doctor, pointing to a couple playing a gentle game of catch. As the ball was chucked back and forth, 25 anchormen looked on, all of them shouting questions. "Could I ask you whether I am right in thinking that the ball could cause great damage if dropped?" "If the ball were to fly through the window, who would pay for the new glass?" "Are you really suggesting that this game could end without wholesale destruction?"

As you see, these poor fellows still have a long way to go, and I would urge all readers to contribute generously to this important cause.

THE TIMES DIARY

Party to the triumph

Oblivious to Western concerns about triumphalism, the Kuwaitis have invited John Major, George Bush and other allied leaders to a "liberation show" in Kuwait City next month. Mrs Thatcher has also been invited, as has General Norman Schwarzkopf, in what promises to be a no-holds-barred celebration of the defeat of Iraq.

Creative Concern, the London-based firm which organised the Docklands laser extravaganza with Jean-Michel Jarre, was approached some months ago by the Kuwaiti government in exile to organise a pop concert after the war had ended. However, once the extent of the victory became apparent, the Kuwaitis escalated their plans into something far grander. The extravaganza has been allocated a budget of £1 million and the firm is flying out a staff of 100 to stage the show.

Celebrities from the world of opera and classical music are being invited to take part, and plans being discussed include a laser show, accompanied by a narrative of the battle for Kuwait, with suitably stirring martial music, to be relayed around the devastated city. About two tonnes of explosives are also being shipped to Kuwait for a spectacular firework display.

The proposals were shown to the ruling al-Sabah family within days of the ceasefire, and the British ministry of defence has also been consulted. Formal invitations are expected to go to Western leaders this week. Despite misgivings in some quarters about the tone of the event, allied leaders will find it almost impossible to refuse an invitation which the Kuwaitis see as a "thank you" gift to their liberators.

● *The hapless official who introduced Mrs Thatcher as "the prime minister" at Monday night's annual meeting of her Finchley Conservative Association is not the only one who still has difficulty adjusting to her new role. Don't worry, she told him: on her visit to California for Ronald Reagan's 80th birthday celebrations last month, even Dan Quayle, the American vice-president, seemed to think she was still at No 10.*

Wicket loss

Cricket could be about to disappear from the curriculum at John Major's old school. The news is certain to distress the cricket-loving prime minister who, as president of the Surrey youth cricket appeal last year, has put much time and energy into encouraging the game at junior level. Tony Mooney, the headmaster of Rutlish school in Merton, which has produced three county players for Surrey in the past decade, says: "We used to have a groundsman, but since the maintenance has been put in the hands of the local authority, the pitches have declined rapidly." Mooney has been forced to cancel the school's most prestigious fixtures. "Good sides will not play on substandard pitches and Surrey Young Cricketers have cancelled their annual fixture against us."

The school has now consulted the groundsman from the nearby Mitcham cricket club. "He says the situation is not irretrievable, but it is serious. Unless we raise about £3,000 this year to sort out the pitches, cricket could vanish."

Ingrained honesty

Along with all the military hardware and personnel returning soon from the Gulf, there could be an order for several crates of Kuwaiti sand. An Edinburgh firm specialising in commemorative trinkets had the foresight to import several pounds of the sand before the war began. It is now selling the grains, set in resin in a bone china "liberation thimble" at £10.95 each.

Fearing that the thimbles could sell out, the company denies that it might stock up at a Scottish beach. "It's the sand our soldiers and allies were fighting over. We shall send to the Gulf for some more," says a spokesman. Or ask returning servicemen to empty their shoes and socks carefully?

'What's a few thimblefuls of sand- you said.
GED

High teas

One hundred days after Mrs Thatcher left office, consensus politics has been firmly re-established. Labour MPs are being showered with invitations to take tea with cabinet ministers. Keith Vaz, the MP for Leicester East, says that in the past week he has received invitations from Michael Heseltine and Michael Howard, the employment secretary. "Heseltine's office told me that the secretary of state thought it would be nice to meet backbench Labour MPs with views on environmental issues."

Such an invitation would have been unthinkable in the days of Nicholas Ridley. Vaz, who accepted the invitation from Howard, but had to turn down Heseltine, says: "It's a marked difference, not only to Mrs Thatcher's time, but also to the attitude of some of our own frontbench colleagues." He has also been invited to meet John Major, to discuss compensation for nuclear test veterans. So far, he has not had an opportunity to discuss the veterans with Neil Kinnock, his party leader "I'm still waiting," says Vaz.

Edited memory

Sir Kingsley Amis's acrid memoirs have prompted predictable squeals and denials from his victims, but he surely did not expect a correction from his own son. Nevertheless, Martin Amis, the novelist, admitted yesterday that his father had not told the whole story about an incident in which Tom Driberg, the Labour politician, took a fancy to Amis junior. Driberg confided his interest to Christopher Hitchens, a journalist, and suggested a lunchtime assignation. "You'd be wasting your time," said Hitchens, who passed on the story to Amis senior. "End of scene," say the memoirs.

However, Martin Amis, who confesses he has not yet finished reading his father's controversial recollections, says Driberg made one final bid to seduce him. "One night at his flat he lunged at me. I ducked under his arm and he chased me around the table. He never caught me."

[illegible]

FORGING PEACE

As James Baker, the American secretary of state, embarks on a ten-day tour of the Middle East tomorrow, American prestige among Arab leaders has never been higher. He will be tempted therefore to embark on high-pressure American diplomacy designed to force the emergence of a new Middle Eastern order from the wreckage of war. But Mr Baker knows that any Western peace plan, however benign, risks reawakening Arab distrust and Israeli suspicions. Washington must therefore coax ideas out of the states concerned rather than imposing its own blueprint. The onus must be on Israel and the Arab states to show a new flexibility. Hence Mr Baker's insistence that the coalition forged to defeat Iraq has mileage left in it and should remain in being to forge the peace.

Peace involves four elements: a new regional security system for the Gulf; regional economic co-operation matching the wealth of the six oil exporters in the Gulf Co-operation Council with the manpower of impoverished Egypt and Syria; arms control, with special emphasis on ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction; and a durable Arab-Israeli settlement.

The security framework, the subject of much discussion before and during the allied offensive, is well launched. But without progress on the other fronts, the security pact being discussed in Damascus could eventually become a force for renewed instability. Adherence is open to all Arab states and Syria has made no secret of its hopes that the accord could become a springboard for joint Arab action. The target would, as ever, be Israel. Nor would economic co-operation necessarily breed stability, if it took the traditional form of cash handouts by the oil exporters to buy off discontent in the souks of Cairo. Ways must be found to link investment and aid to desperately needed economic reforms.

Arms control should begin now. Sensitive foreign technology needs to be denied to the region, but the Middle East will continue to be the world's premier arms bazaar until Israel is brought into the balance. And that implies an Arab-Israeli settlement which would require on the one side, Arab recognition of Israel's legal existence and on the other, Israeli acceptance of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Mr Baker has been here before, retiring hurt only a year ago. But this time, he starts with considerable assets. Although the Arab world is badly split, the traditional arbiters of Middle East politics are in the allied camp. Iraq's aggression has compelled Arab governments to follow their real national interests, stripping away years of pretence that all would be perfect harmony but for Israel's existence. While the Arabs in the coalition continue to support "the Palestinian cause", they are disenchanted with Yassir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation. Egypt and Saudi Arabia (which might well press Jordan to help to circumvent the PLO) want to move rapidly.

As for Israel, the reach of Iraq's Scud missiles has begun to alter the debate about security. A land-for-peace deal — albeit not within the 1967 borders — now looks a more attractive proposition. Any such deal would have to be guaranteed internationally, but, after the war, an American guarantee now looks more credible.

Mr Baker must explore, but explore aggressively. He should resist calls for formal frameworks at this stage, whether a Helsinki-style Middle East conference on peace and security, as favoured by Italy or a full-blown international peace conference. They may have a place, but later. The peace process could easily become bogged down in the rival rhetorics of the Middle Eastern participants. America's job, with the support of her allies, is to cut through the hypocrisies and evasions of the diplomatic process, as the allies' troops cut through Iraq's defences.

Mr Baker is an instinctive conciliator. He rides a wind for change in the Middle East unparalleled since Israel's creation. The Europeans, who tend to exaggerate their influence in the Middle East, must give him unstinting support.

FREEING THE PHONES

Despite the ideological fervour with which successive privatisations have been carried out, industries have been opened up more to the fresh air of the private sector than to the chill winds of competition. Public utilities have, on the whole, been transformed into private monopolies or near-monopolies, and consumers have felt as exploited and aggrieved as ever. Privatisation is a necessary condition for greater efficiency. But, even combined with strong regulation, it has not proved a sufficient condition. The opportunities for the utilities to cock a snook at the regulators are endless, as British Gas is proving in its current unseemly attempts to thwart Ofgas. There is no substitute for competition.

British Telecom faces competition only from Mercury, which has proved no more than an irritant. Seven years after privatisation, BT controls 95 per cent of the market. The result is predictable: a National Utility Services survey, published yesterday, showed that local telephone calls are more expensive in Britain than in any other major industrialised country.

At last, the government has responded to its radical critics. Under the proposals in its white paper, published yesterday, telecommunications are to be opened to unfettered competition. At the same time, BT will be forced to cut its prices more sharply in real terms than hitherto. In the short term, international calls will cost 10 per cent less.

The price of other calls can rise by no more than the inflation rate less 6¼ per cent. This may mean no price rises this year. Those who use their phone only rarely will have the benefit of 30 free call units a quarter. Deregulation of telecommunications in America has led to a plethora of companies competing fiercely to offer a profusion of price and service deals to the consumer. Americans are delighted no longer to be under the thumb of American Telephone & Telegraph, BT's counterpart.

Britain will not attain such a state instantly. Regulation will continue to be needed while BT dominates the market. Even with an open market, BT can be expected still to dominate telecommunications for decades to come. Capital investment in telecommunications is both fearsomely expensive and slow. BT has had an unfair head start.

Moreover, even in the long term, a social service element will remain, requiring intervention. The free market will never provide working public telephone boxes in the Western Isles. The free market may seek to impose high fixed costs on customers just for having a phone installed, so deterring some who need them for emergencies only. But the focus in plans for more efficient communications must be on competition and the price mechanism.

What if BT continues to exploit its position? In a few years' time, the government would do well to look again across the Atlantic. There, AT&T having had a total monopoly, the market was first opened to competition on long-distance calls. The new entrants accused the giant of unfair practices and predatory pricing. Eventually it was broken up into eight parts. If BT does not behave, it will merit the same fate.

HERESIES AND PHARISEES

Dr George Carey's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury has begun with a good measure of *odium theologicum*. One or two of the 35 members of the Canterbury chapter have even considered protesting at his views today by defying the royal warrant "permitting" them to elect him — which in effect tells them how to vote. But Dr Carey knows his democratic credentials do not depend on the proceedings of the chapter, which even the most sober churchmen cheerfully describe as a "rigged election."

He was one of two choices made by the Crown Appointments Commission, a body largely elected by the church, and the choice of the prime minister, who is answerable to the secular electorate. It is too soon to say whether those unrigged choices were wise ones, though evidently not too soon, as our correspondence columns have amply demonstrated, to begin airing the point.

Dr Carey, meanwhile, is in America, blithely fulfilling private teaching engagements. His self-imposed period of purdah between his nomination on July 25 last year and his enthronement next April 19 is partly to blame for the controversy which is marring his elevation. Because Dr Carey has allowed himself to say so little, more than normal attention is guaranteed for anything he does say. The purdah, presumably a precaution against rows before he was duly installed and fully in charge, has had the opposite effect.

Episcopal press advisers really should learn about publication dates. A half-forgotten interview given three months before to *Reader's Digest*, for instance, exploded in Dr Carey's face when it appeared a week ago. Had he made a dozen speeches and given a crop of interviews in the meantime, all the nuances of his position on the issues of the day, women priests particularly, would be out by now. Instead he starts with the ill-chosen word "heresy" hanging round his neck, and his substitution of "theological error" will not remove it.

"Fire and forget" is a good principle for missiles, a bad one for archbishops. Dr Robert Runcie made the same mistake when he gave his famous "pharisee" interview to the *Director* magazine in 1989. It was published, with a hint of spin in an anti-Thatcher direction, just when Dr Runcie wanted all eyes on his visit to the Pope that October. In any case heresy and pharisee were both words which ought to have been blue-pencilled when the proofs of the interviews were shown to Lambeth Palace. Dr Runcie's derogatory reference to the pharisees gave just as much unintended offence to the Jewish community as the former word has now given to Anglo-Catholics.

No politician would allow himself so little control over the publication date of such interviews. Dr Carey may object that he is not a politician but a pastor of souls. But Matthew 10:16 is a necessary text for a modern church leader: "Be ye therefore wise as serpents . . ." Time and again Dr Runcie allowed himself to be outmanoeuvred by the news management techniques of his political critics. Worldly innocence may count towards salvation in the next world, but it merely heaps coals on an archiepiscopal head in this one.

Dr Carey, who changes from Archbishop of Canterbury-designate to Archbishop of Canterbury-elect today, would have done better if he had disregarded all these archaic steps up to the Throne of Augustine. At least from the end of January when Dr Runcie retired, and especially with Britain at war, he should have been acting as if he were Archbishop of Canterbury — proper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Mixed feelings about Gulf war thanksgiving service

From Mr John Gummer, MP for Suffolk Coastal (Conservative)

Sir, I am surprised at the phrase in your leader (March 4), "It (the service of thanksgiving) should be as ecumenical as possible to avoid excluding members of non-Christian faiths". Ecumenical is a word usually applied to that which is acceptable to differing denominations of Christians. It cannot reasonably be suggested that one can have a service which has any meaning for Christians if it is in a form so unspecific as not to be essentially Christian. If Jesus Christ is God then the revelation of the Gospels is unique and unparalleled. If he is not, then we Christians are, as St Paul said, the most miserable of men.

Most Christians wish to thank God for the defeat of evil in the Gulf, we wish to pray for reconciliation, and to ask for Jesus's mercy upon the dead and their families. In a Christian country we must be allowed to do that simple but essential duty according to the forms and ceremonies of the Christian church. At the same time we need to be tolerant and open enough to allow those who do not share our beliefs to mourn the dead in their own way.

Everyone can therefore be involved in a common parade and wreath-laying ceremony. It will be natural for church leaders to lead a Christian nation in prayer thereafter and for those of other faiths to commemorate the success of this battle against evil in their own particular ways in their own religious environment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GUMMER,
House of Commons.
March 4.

From Mr Adrian Fort

Sir, General de la Billière's call for the ringing of church bells (report, March 1) will, I fear, fall upon deaf ears. A fine victory for British arms and the tumbling of a Third World aggressor do not accord with the spirit of the modern Church of England. The rejoicing in the village pub will find no echo in the synod chamber.

Is it pastor or flock that is out of step? Perhaps the rows of empty pews (report, March 2) suggest the answer.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN FORT,
55 Elms Road, SW4.
March 2.

From Mrs D. M. White

Sir, I am appalled at the suggestion of a thanksgiving service. A service of atonement in which we all, of whatever faith, humbly acknowledge our guilt in the terrible slaughter and offer our resolve to make amends for the future would be more to the point.

How can we in the West give thanks when our troops are coming home leaving devastation and bereavement on such a scale behind them?

All right; this was in response to the brutality and stupidity of the Iraqi regime, but the West played its part in building up that regime, and I cannot believe that using total air superiority as it was used in the last days of the war over Baghdad and on the fleeing troops was necessary or justified. I am ashamed.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY WHITE,
217 Hampstead Way, NW11.
March 3.

From Mrs Dawn Lowe-Watson

Sir, The Bishop of Durham has said (report, March 4) that celebrations of Allied victory in the Gulf would be obscene. Would not the alternative have been far more obscene? All thinking, feeling people must be suffering today for the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people alike, but empathy hardly precludes gratitude, a lack of which would indeed be an obscenity.

Very truly,
DAWN LOWE-WATSON,
Wickham House,
81 High Street,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.
March 4.

From Mrs Tilly Marshall

Sir, Having listened to the Bishop of Durham's diatribe in the cause of peace on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme I can bring to mind no member of the armed services who has sounded off during the Gulf conflict in so militant a manner.

Your excellent leader today refers to soldiers being the first to accept that they were "only doing a job of work". That is true enough. But we must accept that the job of the armed services is very different from that of civilians inasmuch as it entails an unending discipline. Ceremonials, parades, medals and thanksgivings have their purpose in being a reminder to the serviceman that he *is* a serviceman, and as such there are disciplines expected of him which we civilians would find insupportable.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
TILLY MARSHALL,
Riverside Cottage, Swinbrook,
Burford, Oxfordshire.
March 4.

From Mr Jonathan Shine

Sir, Let us welcome our soldiers and give thanks to them and their families and of course to God for sparing so many of our loved ones. Let us celebrate the clear triumph over evil by very brave men and women.

Faithfully yours,
JONATHAN SHINE,
Manchester University,
Faculty of Economics,
Dover Street,
Manchester 15.
March 4.

From Mrs Gillian Gaisford

Sir, I read your Diarist (February 27) on the Church of England's discreet "self-imposed ban on martial-sounding songs of praise" since the start of the conflict with some amusement.

Last Sunday's *Songs of Praise* on BBC Television from Andover showed us a congregation of service families singing, "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son"; a line in a subsequent verse runs, "Bring us safe through Jordan".

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN GAISFORD,
2 Lovat Drive, Knutsford, Cheshire.
March 1.

From Mrs Barbara Vaughan

Sir, In all the media preoccupation with the Gulf war there was an outstanding contribution in the special *Songs of Praise* programmes on several Sunday evenings during the weeks of war. The presenters reflected the sombre mood of the nation yet introduced hymns with uplifting tunes and hopeful words. The devotions sung as a background to readings given by the wives and mothers of servicemen were particularly moving. May I say that "religion" got it right this time?

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA VAUGHAN,
52 Brook Hill,
Woodstock, Oxford.
March 1.

From Mr Jonathan Prichard

Sir, Judged by the various reports we have received from Iraq, it would be of no surprise to hear that Saddam Hussein intended to hold a victory parade in Baghdad.

Perhaps Mr Major and Mr King might like to arrange that any proposed parade organised for London could be held on the same day. Both would then be equally distasteful.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN PRICHARD,
10 Kennington Park Place, SE11.
March 4.

Lords ruling on No 1 Poultry

From Mr Philip Strickland

Sir, Now that five lords have granted another lord the fulfilment of a 30-year crusade to rid the City of London of a significant cornerstone of English history (report and Law Report, March 1; leading article, March 2) I wonder who exists that will speak for the preservation of our heritage henceforth.

The grounds argued for the demolition of No 1 Poultry and adjacent buildings were, at best, based largely upon subjective interpretation of what is "good" or "bad" in architectural terms. Throughout this long saga we have seen architect vie with architect, with hardly an utterance about aesthetic or public concern. The trouble with historic buildings is not that it was someone else's idea from another age, governed by different ideals, which produced the structure, but that it was someone else's profit.

I gain little consolation from the knowledge that in no more than 100 years from now No 1 Poultry will again be swept away because the indifferent, tasteless architecture of the 1990s will not bear comparison with the views of the then owner-crusader.

It is after all by this process that we have come to produce not one city in England which can compare with the magnificent and visionary cities of continental Europe.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. STRICKLAND,
135 High Street,
Riseley, Bedfordshire.
March 2.

From Lord Killearn

Sir, Lord Palumbo's proposed new block may not be so beautiful that it will be admired for all time. It is certainly preferable to the present mediocre Victorian Gothic edifice; and, as such, it will be a boon to the present and next few generations of City dwellers and daily visitors.

Think of the many superb houses of the Tudor, Jacobean and Georgian periods which were built by our forefathers to replace perfectly worthy, but not outstanding, buildings of earlier periods. Today, we have a strange belief that what is older must be better: often, it may be — but equally often, not! We should not be prissy about such things.

Yours faithfully,
KILLEARN,
House of Lords.
March 2.

From Mr J. W. Richards

Sir, Is it not incongruous that the developer of the Mappin & Webb site and the chairman of the Arts Council are one and the same person? And that Save Britain's Heritage will bear the legal costs of £150,000 from their funds designed to prevent philistine destruction of this nature?

I am, Sir, your disillusioned servant,
J. W. RICHARDS,
17 Palace Gate, W8.
March 2.

From Dr Michael Hunter

Sir, You report Lord Bridge as saying that "the public controversy over the [Poultry] case arose from differences of opinion about traditional and contemporary architectural styles". With respect, this misses the chief point at issue, which is that the Mappin & Webb building and the seven other listed buildings which will now be demolished have formed part of the historic heart of the City for over a century.

There should be a presumption in favour of the retention of such buildings, regardless of aesthetic arguments over their stylistic merits compared with a new structure. There is plenty of opportunity for James Stirling to employ his talents on sites where no such destruction is involved.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HUNTER,
59 Oakley Square, NW1.

From Mr Arthur C. Allen

Sir, The Prince of Wales's comparison of the proposed "modern and monumental" building in the City with a 1930s wireless is quite unfair to the designers of 1930s wireless sets.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR C. ALLEN,
84 Langhorne Road,
Dagenham, Essex.
March 1.

From Mr N. W. Hudson

Sir, There can only be one name for James Stirling's building — Lego House.

Yours faithfully,
N. W. HUDSON,
31 Station Road,
Ampthill, Bedfordshire.
March 2.

Divorce and church

From the Very Reverend E. L. Harkness

Sir, Mr Moiser in his letter (February 16) concerning the ongoing debate raised by Clifford Longley's article ("Making sense of divorce", February 9) claims that the churches have never pursued the views of marriage found in St Matthew 19 or I Corinthians 7:15.

The Catholic Church does refer to these two types of marriages in her practice. The first, in Matthew, is a marriage in which God joins the two together in marriage. This involves two baptised persons who form the sacrament. Such a marriage can never be dissolved in Catholic discipline but it can be examined for possible nullity of the sacrament.

The second type to which Paul refers involves the marriage between a baptised and non-baptised person. This is considered a natural bond marriage and not a sacrament. It can, therefore, be dissolved if certain conditions are present. It is classically referred to as "the Pauline Privilege".

Yours faithfully,
EUGÈNE HARKNESS,
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish,
4 Norwich Road,
North Walsham,
Norfolk.

Early cremations

From Mr Stephen White

Sir, Alan Franks writes (February 23) that in 1885 there were no cremations in Britain. In fact in that year three lawful cremations took place at Woking, Surrey. Moreover in 1882 there had been two and in 1883 one at Manston in Dorset and in 1884 there was one at Llantrisant near Cardiff.

There were of course several other unlawful cremations at the time, usually associated with infanticide.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WHITE,
University of Wales,
Cardiff Law School,
PO Box 427,
Cardiff CF1 1XD.
February 23.

Belgians' war effort

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, Your readers will not need to be told that the Belgian government is delighted by the allied victory in the Gulf. However, in view of unfavourable comment on the Belgian contribution to the war effort published in the British press during the conflict, I should like to bring some facts to your attention.

Early in the crisis, on August 13, 1990, Belgium sent four warships to the Gulf, including a frigate, to implement the naval embargo declared by the UN Security Council, placing them under the Western European Union co-ordination authority. On January 2, 1991, in accordance with a Nato decision, 18 Belgian Mirage fighters were sent to Diyarbakir air base in Turkey.

In addition, Belgium provided the UK, France and The Netherlands with air transport facilities and the UK with a field pipeline and 2,800 field beds. A 48-strong team was sent to work in a British medical facility in Cyprus, and transportation was and remains on offer for evacuation of British troops; hospital beds and ambulances are on stand-by in Belgium.

Today, having already donated 972 machine guns and 70 tons of anti-nuclear, biological and chemical equipment to, respectively, the USA and Turkey, our Nato partners, the Belgian government has decided on a grant of £15 million to the British government, to support its war efforts.

The well-publicised British request for ammunition was put to the Belgian government in November 1990 — i.e., before the Security Council adopted its resolution 678, at a time when Belgium had not yet reached the conclusion that the use of military force in order to free Kuwait was unavoidable.

Wanting to pay a special tribute to British efforts during the crisis, I would like to stress that in this conflict the Belgian government has been at the side of the forces of the allied coalition.

Yours sincerely,
H. DEHENNIN,
Belgian Embassy,
103 Eaton Square, SW1.
February 27.

Smoking ban

From Mr Norman Cohen

Sir, Mr Graham Chainey (February 22) welcomes the smoking ban on London buses, but I cannot agree with his view of the damage caused by bus exhausts. Diesel engines emit less carbon dioxide than petrol engines and substantially less smoke per passenger mile than cars. Nationally, buses and coaches account for only 0.7 per cent of airborne pollution, against 56.8 per cent for petrol vehicles.

Our buses are well maintained, use a grade of fuel which exceeds legal requirements and are subject to random inspections by the Department of Transport. New engines are being installed which conform to the highest emission standards and older engines are modified during reconditioning wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,
N. COHEN (Operations Director),
London Buses Limited,
172 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
February 22.

NHS waiting lists

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, The suggestion has again been made in your columns that multiplying the number of hospital consultants would be an effective way of reducing NHS waiting lists (Mr Neely, February 27).

It is certainly true that other countries have far more specialists per capita of population than the UK, but what is not mentioned is that they do not have well developed primary health care systems run by general practitioners. Consequently, in those countries many people with minor ailments refer themselves directly to appropriate specialists. This may be a preferred arrangement, but it is certainly more expensive. In such countries it contributes to the escalating cost of health care, which is indeed an international problem.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. CROSBY (Consultant surgeon),
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff.

IQ and nutrients

From Professor John Yudkin

Sir, The research on the relationship between nutrient supplements and IQ referred to by Thomson Prentice (February 28) is not simply an assertion by a group of well-known scientists.

Professor David Naismith of King's College says that such supplements do not improve children's intelligence scores. This statement is based on some work done by Professor Naismith and his colleagues who also gave vitamin and mineral supplements to children, with negative results.

What in fact Professor Naismith's group have demonstrated is that a supplement of a particular composition, administered for one month, does not have this effect. Our research has shown that a different supplement, administered for four months, does increase IQ. Not every white pill you buy at the chemist will relieve a headache.

Even more unwarranted is the statement from the Medical Research Council that what we know about nutrition rules out the possibility that nutrient supplementation can affect IQ. The implication is that we now know everything about nutrition. Does the MRC now propose to close its nutrition laboratory in Cambridge, and terminate grants made for nutrition research in other laboratories? It would be more constructive if the MRC supported research into which particular nutrient or nutrients, and in which concentration, improve IQ performance.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN YUDKIN,
20 Wellington Court,
Wellington Road,
St John's Wood, NW8.
March 4.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Little sir echo

From Mr C. L. Kirch

Sir, How does one deal with those who habitually join in the second half of one's own sentences?

Should they be asked politely to desist? Alternatively, should one do the same to them, or give the second half of the sentence a sudden, unexpected twist to frustrate the tormentor?

Yours faithfully,
C. L. KIRCH (Headmaster),
Avalon School, Caldy Road,
West Kirby,
Wirral, Merseyside.
February 28.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh, International President WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature – and Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, left Heathrow Airport, London this morning to visit the Falkland Islands, Brazil, Bermuda, Washington and the Azores.

Mr Brian McGrath and the Lord Buxton are in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2, this afternoon.

Mrs John Dugdale has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: The Duchess of York, Patron, MacIntyre, this morning visited MacIntyre Flackwell Heath, The Cherries, near High Wycombe and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon. John Fremantle, RN).

Her Royal Highness, President, Action Research, later attended the consumer launch of "Focus for Need" at the Rock Circus, Piccadilly, London.

Miss Lucy Manners and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

The Duchess of York attended a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, WC2, this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, visited the Royal Veterinary College, North Mymms, Hatfield and was received by Sir Norman Lindop (Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire).

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Cambridge and was received by Captain Nigel Chancellor (Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

The Princess Royal, Patron, Dunn Nutrition Centre, visited the Dunn Nutrition Centre in Cambridge.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a dinner with the Union society in Trinity College and afterwards addressed the Society.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 5: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt. at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 5: The Prince of Wales visited the Regimental Headquarters RA, Headquarters Woolwich Garrison and The Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital to visit servicemen, families of those serving in the Gulf and those admitted to the Hospital following service in the Gulf.

Major General Sir Christopher Airy, Commander Alistair Watson RN and Mr Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

His Royal Highness received members of the Welsh Affairs Committee at St James's Palace, SW1.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward at the memorial service for Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon was present at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, WC2.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel J K R Porter on assuming command of the 5th Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel M C K Edwards on relinquishing the appointment.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Commander Roger Walker at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2, this afternoon.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 5: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Mental Health Foundation, this afternoon received Major General Peter Deakin.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, was present this evening at a Reception held by Action for Blind People (formerly London Association for the Blind), to launch the new name and the Development Plan, at St James's Palace.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Princess Alexandra was represented by Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ian Trethowan which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2, this afternoon.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a reception at Drapers' Hall at 6.30.

The Princess of Wales will visit the Royal Hospital and Home, Putney, at 10.30.

The Duchess of York will present the Peaudouce Childminder of the Year award at the Mayfair Hotel at 10.45.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of SENSE, will open two group homes at 1-4 Newton Court, Paston Ridings, Peterborough, at 10.15; and visit the association's shop at 323 Lincoln Road at 11.00; as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit Orton Family Resource Centre, Peterborough, at 11.45; and, as President of the Rural Housing Trust, will attend a conference at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre, Bedfordshire, at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent will open Automotive Product Racing's new factory in Coventry at 10.40; will visit the Department of Trade and Industry's new regional office in Birmingham at 12.10; and, as Vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit the West Midlands Metropolitan Ambulance Service accident and emergency control complex in Birmingham at 2.30.

Birthdays today

Dr M.G. Adam, astronomer, 79; Miss Jean Boht, actress, 55; Mr William Davis, author and broadcaster, 58; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 80; Mr Alistair Grant, chairman and chief executive, Argyll Group, 54; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, president, Wolfson College, Oxford, 68; Mr Frankie Howerd, actor and comedian, 69; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 61; Sir Hal Miller, MP, 62; Mme Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, first woman in space, 54; Dr J.H.P. Pafford, librarian, 91; Sir Ian Dixon Scott, diplomat, 82; the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 62; Sir Peter Stallard, former colonial administrator, 76; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, opera singer, 47; Mr D.H. Whitaker, publisher, 60; Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, 50; Sir Oliver Wright, diplomat, 70.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Michelangelo, Caprese, Italy, 1475; Sir Charles Napier, admiral, Falkirk, 1786; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Durham, 1806; George du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, Paris, 1834.

DEATHS: Francis Beaumont, dramatist, London, 1616; Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed in the battle of the Alamo, Texas, 1836; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1900; John Redmond, Irish nationalist, London 1918; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Zoltán Kodály, composer, Budapest, 1967; Pearl Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938; Danby, Vermont, 1971.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, was host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Lajos Für, Hungarian Minister for Defence.

Media Society
Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Media Society held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Christopher Rowley, president, was in the chair.

Consular Corps of London
Mr William Wilder, President of the Consular Corps of London, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel for members of the corps.

First Day Cover Club
Group Captain W.G. Gambold was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the First Day Cover Club held yesterday at the RAF Club to mark the issue of stamps on pioneers in science. Mr Keith McDowall was in the chair.

Dinner

Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Mrs Linda Stone, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Sir Christopher France, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health, also spoke.

The Red Maids' School, Bristol

The governors have made the following awards for September 1991:
Academic Scholarship: Romana Bevington, Westbury Park Primary School.
Music Scholarships: Amelia Dunscombe, Colston's Primary School; Lucy Stainer, Redland High School.
Sixth Form Whitson Bursaries (internal): Rebecca Bowen, Suzannah Marsh and Sarah Robinson.

Journalism prize

Mr George Clark, former European Political Correspondent of *The Times*, who retired in 1983, was presented with the *Prix du Journalisme Européen* for 1990 at a ceremony in Brussels.

The award is given annually for outstanding work in reporting European affairs, the choice being made by members of the Association of European Journalists. Since retirement, Mr Clark has taken on freelance work, notably for the European Parliament.

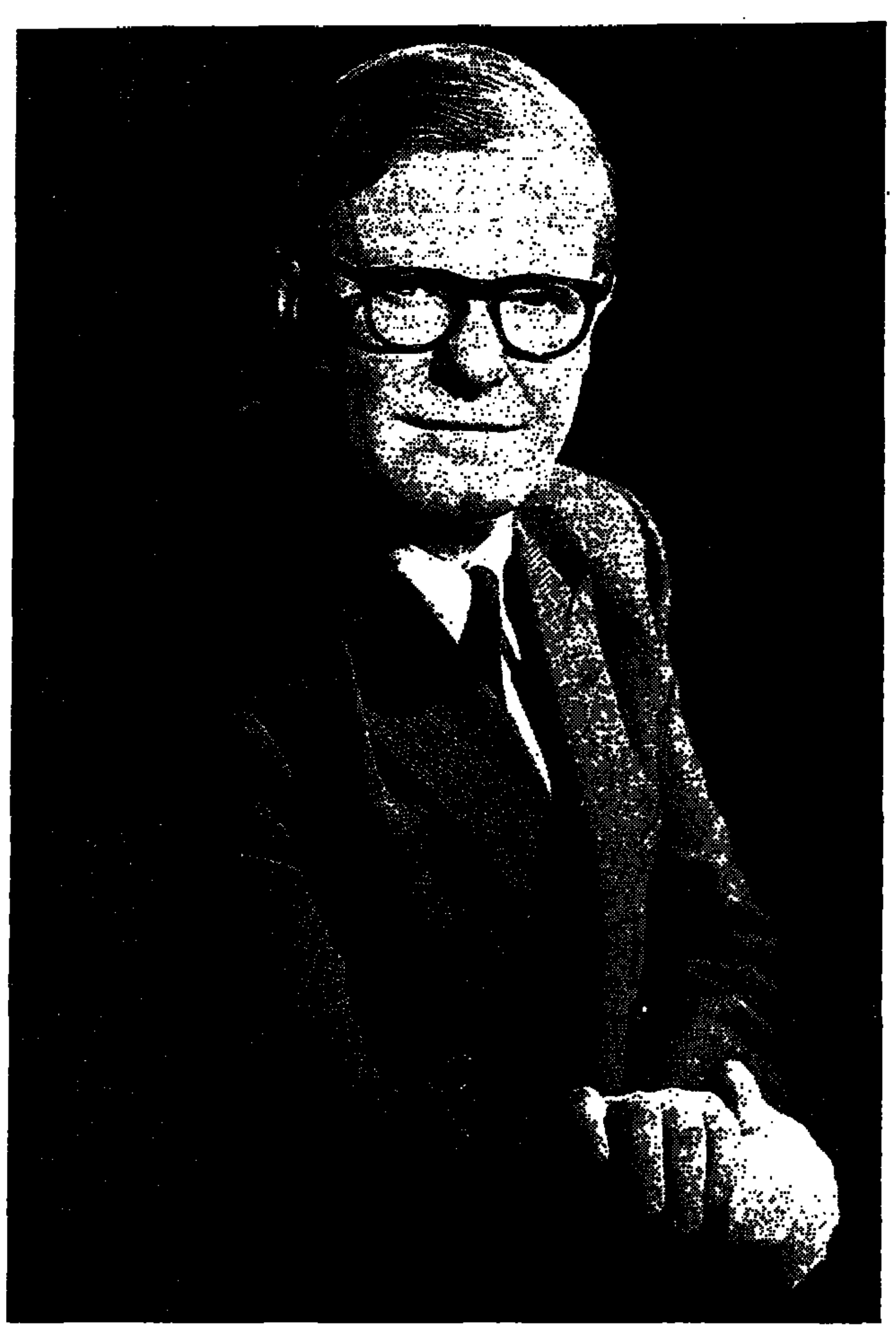
£1.4m appeal

A £1.4 million appeal to replace the organ and set up a choral foundation was launched yesterday at Chelmsford cathedral.

The century-old organ has broken down beyond repair, threatening the future of the internationally-renowned choir, a spokesman said. The appeal is believed to be the biggest for cathedral music within the Church of England.

OBITUARY

LORD PENNEY



Lord Penney, OM, KBE, FRS, creator of the British atom bomb, died on March 3 aged 81. He was born on June 24, 1909.

WILLIAM Penney provided the vigorous scientific and administrative leadership in the post-war years which enabled Britain to test and develop both fission and thermonuclear bombs and take its place in the nuclear club. He had already played an important role in the wartime American atomic bomb project and was highly regarded by the Americans. Indeed they had badly wanted him to continue as part of the US team for the Bikini atoll tests of 1946, by which time the British had been excluded by American legislation from partnership in the further development of nuclear bombs and left to work as best they might in isolation. Throughout the 1950s, when the government's and Penney's conviction that Britain must possess a nuclear deterrent – and his capacity to create it – led to the British bomb, he remained the British asset coveted above all by the Americans. Undoubtedly the remarkable strides he made towards a British hydrogen bomb were instrumental in restoring the principle of exchange of nuclear technology between the two countries. Penney's gifts as a scientist were intuitive understanding and simplicity of approach and he was good at explaining complex scientific and technical matters to laymen. His good relations with service chiefs, and indeed with the ranks, during tests was an important part of the success of the team he led.

William George Penney was the son of W. A. Penney, a sergeant-major in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He was educated at Sheerness Technical School, where he showed marked mathematical ability, and from which he gained a scholarship to the Royal College of Science, one of the constituent colleges of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. His undergraduate career was one of great distinction, but did not prevent him exercising his enthusiasm for soccer. Playing for the RCS football team he proved a robust, bustling centre forward of the old type, with a powerful shot.

Graduating with a brilliant first, he was awarded in 1931 a Commonwealth Fund fellowship and he spent the next two years in the United States at the University of Wisconsin. Thence, with the award of an 1851 Exhibition senior studentship he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he carried out theoretical investigations on the structure of metals and the magnetic properties of crystals. In 1936 he was elected to the Stokes studentship at Pembroke College, but in the same year he returned to London as assistant professor of mathematics at Imperial College.

Shortly after the outbreak of war he was on loan to the Ministry of Home Security and the Admiralty to investigate problems connected with the nature and properties of blast waves. It was through this work that in 1944 he came to be sent to Los Alamos to join the British team working on the atomic bomb.

This was the turning point of Penney's career. At Los Alamos his varied abilities received greater scope for development and his qualities of character, which enabled him to lead as well as to work in harmony with others, gained wider recognition. He soon established a high reputation and made many enduring friendships with American scientists. He made blast measurements at the first nuclear explosion in the United States and he was one of the two British observers to accompany the flight when the second atom bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the other being Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC. Penney was also one of the British party at the Bikini tests in 1946, where his reputation was greatly enhanced by his determination of the blast power, using simple equipment, at a time when the United States's more sophisticated gauges failed to operate. For his services to the United States Penney was awarded the US Medal of Freedom (Silver Palm). At home in 1946 Penney was made OBE and appointed chief superintendent of armament research in the Ministry of Supply.

On the failure of the discussions within the Atomic Energy Commission of the United Nations to reach any agreement on control of nuclear weapons, the government decided to build British weapons. The responsibility for the design and development fell to Penney, using plutonium to be made in reactors at Windscale. Penney had to start from scratch without the benefit of US co-operation since the US Atomic Energy Act of 1946 ended the wartime partnership and prohibited the release of any information from the United States. Scientific and engineering teams had to be built up, new technologies developed, and highly specialised facilities constructed at Aldermaston, before the first atomic bomb could be ready for testing. That this was done by October 1952 was a remarkable achievement and confirmed the qualities of character, scientific ability and leadership already recognised in Penney. The test was carried out in the Montebello Islands, off the north-west coast of Australia, and was completely successful. For his distinguished services in this achievement Penney, on his return from Australia, was created KBE.

This development was followed up by Penney and his team at the rapidly expanding establishment at Aldermaston, of which Penney became director in 1953 when, for the first time, it was known publicly as the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. In 1954, the responsibility for the development of atomic energy was transferred from the Ministry of Supply to a non-departmental body, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). Penney was appointed a member of the authority with responsibility for the research and development of nuclear weapons. In this he was outstandingly successful. Under his leadership a vigorous programme led to an early test, in May 1957, of the first British hydrogen bomb at Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean, followed by further tests in 1958.

This achievement had far reaching consequences in that it made possible the bilateral treaty, signed in 1958 between the United States and the United Kingdom for mutual assistance in nuclear defence and the consequential exchange of a range of nuclear information. This ended the total isolation of the British programme. Penney played a leading part in these negotiations as he did in the talks which led, in 1963, to the nuclear test ban treaty forbidding atmospheric nuclear tests. During all these talks Penney's presence and advice were much valued by the British prime minister, Harold Macmillan, in his negotiations with President Kennedy.

Penney's success owed much to his personality and character. In essence he was a friendly, undevious, usually humorous man. Nevertheless he was a shrewd administrator and a good judge of people. The quality which endeared him to his team at Aldermaston was that he treated his scientific staff, of all ranks, as scientific equals. With all the complexities of the phenomena involved in nuclear weapons Penney had also the gift of explaining complicated matters simply and directly to all types of listeners, which was particularly effective in his dealings with the forces and with politicians.

When in 1959 Sir John Cockroft relinquished his post as member of the Authority for Research, with responsibility for Harwell, Penney succeeded him. On a reorganisation of the UKAEA in the spring of 1961, he was made deputy chairman with primary responsibility for scientific and technical co-ordination throughout the authority. He was chairman of the UKAEA from 1964 to 1967. During his later years with the UKAEA Penney presided over many important developments, among them the prototype fast reactor at Dounreay, the diversification of the authority's work into non-nuclear areas and the first nuclear power programme, as well as the drawing up of plans for a second.

In 1967 he left to return to his alma mater as rector of Imperial College of Science and Technology. During turbulent years which saw great deal of student unrest overseas and in other institutions at home, Penney provided a stable leadership which introduced changes to accommodate the altering circumstances and attitudes. Thanks to a judicious mixture of patience, benign good humour and clear common sense, such problems as a growth in student numbers, increased sophistication of research with its attendant industrial relations problems, the democratisation of the managerial constitution and the increased participation of the students were all confronted with a minimum of disruption. In particular, he extended membership of the board of studies to include students and non-professional staff and created an academic staff assembly. He retired from the rectorship in 1973.

In 1985 Lord Penney gave evidence in London to an Australian royal commission which was investigating the effects of the atomic tests carried out in Australia in the 1950s. In answer to questions about claims of breaches in safety standards, he said that all tests had been conducted in accordance with safety standards and that no information about possible effects on the Australian population had been withheld. He did, however, concede that the technical details of the nuclear weapons had been kept secret from the Australian government since it was the policy of the Australians not to be party to information about nuclear weapons or to become a nuclear state.

Penney was elected fellow of the Royal Society in 1946. He was treasurer of the society for four years from 1956-60, and did much to consolidate its financial position. He was created a life peer in 1967 and appointed a member of the Order of Merit in 1969. He received numerous distinctions from academic bodies, being a fellow of Imperial College, London, fellow of Winchester College, and supernumerary fellow of St Catherine's College, Oxford; he was awarded honorary degrees by a number of universities at home and abroad.

He was twice married; first, in 1935, to Adele Minnie Elms, of Queenborough, Kent, by whom he had two sons, and after her death to Eleanor Joan Quennell of Croydon. He is survived by her and by the children of his first marriage.

University news

Oxford
Awards
SOMERVILLE COLLEGE
T & N Technology Ltd-Somerville bursary: Victoria L Doyle; ICI-Somerville bursary: Natalie J Garton.

East Anglia
The following will receive honorary degrees in July:
Kenneth and Brenda Davis, Master of Arts; Raymond Frostick (Chairman of UEA Council) Doctor of Civil Law; Birkin Haward (architect and author) Master of Arts; Barry Norman (journalist and broadcaster) Doctor of Letters; Lord Oliver of Aylmerton (former Lord Justice of Appeal and Privy Councillor) Doctor of Laws; Sir Joshua Rowley (Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk) Doctor of Civil Law; Professor William Stewart, FRS (Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government) Doctor of Science; John Timpson (former Presenter of *Today*) Master of Arts.

Bird reserve

More than 1,000 acres of Pennine moorland have been bought by the RSPB as a bird reserve. The heather moorland at Halton Lea Fell on the Cumbria-Northumberland border is known to have over 90 species of birds nesting there.

Ronald Groves

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Ronald Groves, Master of Dulwich College 1954-66, and Headmaster of Campbell College, Belfast, 1943-54, will be held in Christ's Chapel of Alleyn's College of God's Gift at Dulwich on Thursday, April 25, 1991, at 2.30 pm.

Wing Commander William Kearney

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Wing Commander William Kearney, OBE, will be held in Westminster Abbey on Thursday, April 11, 1991, at 6.15 pm.

Stewart Morris

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Stewart Harold Morris, OBE, Olympic yachting Gold medallist in 1948, President of the Royal Yachting Association 1980 to 1983, is to be held at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, on Wednesday, March 13, at 2.30 pm.

Memorial services

Sir Ian Trethowan

The Queen was represented by Viscount Long and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by Major Sir Ralph Anstruther at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Ian Trethowan held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward.

The Duchess of York and the Duke of Gloucester were present. The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Commander Roger Walker and Princess Alexandra by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy.

Canon Geoffrey Brown officiated and the Right Rev Lord Runcie led the prayers and pronounced the blessing. Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC, read from the writings of William Temple when he was Archbishop of York and Lord Brabourne, Chairman of Thames Television, read the lesson. Lord Prior gave an address.

Prebendary Austen Williams, the Rev Ernest Rea, head of religious broadcasting, BBC, and Canon Peter Ball, chaplain of Thames Television, were robed. Mr Edward Heath, MP, attended. Others present included:

Lady Trethowan (widow), Miss Pippa Trethowan, Miss Tessa Trethowan and Miss Mia Trethowan (daughters), Mr and Mrs Simon Reynolds (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr Frederick Reynolds, Mrs Ian Carnegie-Brown, Mr and Mrs Simon Wood, Miss Charlotte Reynolds, Mr John Trethowan, Mr Monty Trethowan, Mr and Mrs Brock Trethowan, Mr and Mrs Ryan George, Mr Alexander George, Miss Lucinda George, Mrs Nicola Goddard, Mr Julian Micklethwait, Mr Michael Micklethwait, Mr and Mrs Jack Fowler, Mrs Peter Mathieson, Mrs P F Keane, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Field, Mr and Mrs Robert Mermagen, Mr and Mrs David Biddle, Mrs Alastair Kilburn, Mr and Mrs Michael Eden, Mr and Mrs Anthony Vicary-Miles, Mr and Mrs Robert Bell, Mr and Mrs Ian Fairclough, Miss Katherine Fairclough, Miss Celia Fairclough, Brigadier and Mrs Hugh de Fonblanque, Miss Emma-Louise Myatt, Mr and Mrs John Darling.

The High Commissioner for New Zealand, Señor and Señora José Joaquín Puig de la Bellacasa, Herr Karl-Günther von Hase, the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, the Marquess of Hartington, the Marquess and Marchioness of Zetland, the Marquess and Marchioness of Abergavenny, the Earl of Carnarvon, Viscount Whitelaw, CH, and Viscountess Whitelaw, Lady Rupert Nevill, the Right Rev J D G Kirkham.

Lord Barnett (vice chairman, Board of Governors of the BBC) with Mr Michael Checkland (director-general), Mr John Birt (deputy director-general), Sir Paul Fox (managing director, Network Television), Mr David Hatch (managing director, Network Radio) and Mr Ron Neil (managing director, Regional Broadcasting); Lord and Lady Aldington, Lord and Lady Armstrong of Ilminster, Baroness Birk, Lord Bonham-Carter, Lord and Lady Briggs, Lady Bruce-Gardyne, Lord Carrington, CH, and Lady Carrington, Lord and Lady Chalfont, Lord and Lady Crickhowell, Lord and Lady Dunboyne.

Lady Faulkner of Downpatrick, Lord and Lady Fraser of Kilmorack, Lord Grimthorpe, Lord and Lady Hunt of Tanworth, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Lane of Horsell, Lord Manton, Lady Plowden, Lord and Lady Plummer of St Marylebone, Lady Prior, Lord Quinton, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, and Lady Rawlinson, Lord and Lady Rees-Mogg, Lord and Lady Richardson of Duntisbourne, Professor Lord and Lady Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, Lady Swann, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Lady Vestey, Lord Waddington, QC, and Lady Waddington, Lord Windlesham, Lord and Lady Wyatt of Weeford.

Sir Barney Hayhoe, MP, and Lady Hayhoe, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP, and Lady Howe, Sir Anthony Lloyd, Sir Michael and Lady Palliser, Sir Francis and Lady Purchas, Mr Kenneth Baker, MP, and Mrs Baker, Mr Michael Heseltine, MP, Mr John MacGregor, MP, and Mrs MacGregor, the Hon Mrs Douglas Hurd, Mr John Wakeham, MP, and Mrs Wakeham, Mr Paul Channon, MP, and Mrs Channon, Mr Michael Jopling, MP, Mr Timothy Renton, MP, and Mrs Renton, Mrs David Howell.

Lady Susan Hussey, the Hon Lady Goodhart, the Hon Sir Charles Morrison, MP, the Hon Lady Cazalet, the Hon Mrs Marten, the Hon Gerard Noel, the Hon Nigel and Mrs Parker, the Hon Peter Jay, the Hon David Steel, Sheila Lady Bernard, Sir Roger Cary, Lady Cave, Sir John Graham, Sir David Henderson-Stewart, Sir Nevil and Lady Macready, Sir Thomas and Lady Pilkington.

Sir John Sparrow (chairman, Horserace Betting Levy Board) and Lady Sparrow with Mr Tristram Ricketts (chief executive) and Mrs Ricketts; Sir Edward Pickering (executive vice-chairman, Times Newspapers) and Lady Pickering with Mr Andrew Knight (chairman, News International, also representing the chief executive, The News Corporation) and Mr Simon Jenkins (editor, *The Times*).

Sir Philip Adams, Sir Alex and Lady Alexander, Sir Richard Attenborough, Sir David and Lady Attenborough, Sir Roger and Lady Bannister, Sir Brian Bailey, Sir William Barlow, Sir Timothy and Lady Bevan, Colonel Sir Piers and Lady Bengough, General Sir Cecil Blacker, Sir Paul Bryan, Sir Alastair Burnet, Sir Robin Butler, Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Sir Peter and Lady Cazalet, Sir George and Lady Christie, Sir Robert Clark, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Cox, Sir Robin Day, Sir Matthew Farrer, Lady Figgures, Sir Campbell Fraser, Sir Victor and Lady Garland, Sir Peter Gibbings, General Sir James and Lady Glover, Sir Philip Goodhart, MP, and Lady Goodhart, Dame Mary Green.

Sir Nicholas and Lady Henderson, Sir Peter Hordern, MP, and Lady Hordern, Sir John Johnson, Sir Richard and Lady Francis, Sir Ian and Lady Kennedy, Sir Anthony and Lady Laughton, Lady Littler, Sir David and Lady Llewellyn, Vice-Admiral Sir David Loram, Sir Alastair and Lady Morton, Sir Claus Moser, Lady Newman, Sir David and Lady Nicholas, Sir Duncan Oppenheim, Sir David and Lady Orr, Lady Parker, Sir John and Lady Read, Sir Frank Roberts, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, Sir James Spooner, Sir Charles and Lady Tidbury, Sir Anthony Tuke, Sir David Wills, Sir David and Lady Wilson, Sir Philip Woodfield, Sir Brian Young, Mr Michael and Lady Angela Oswald, Mr Ian Taylor, MP, and the Hon Mrs Taylor.

Mr Richard Dunn (chief executive, Thames Television) and Mrs Dunn with Mr Jonathan Shier (deputy chief executive) and Mr John Davey (deputy chairman); Mr and Mrs Erik Jurgens, Mr Hans Tissen, Major-General and Mrs John Hardy, Major-General and Mrs Stuart Watson, Rear-Admiral Charles Weston, Colonel and Mrs James Baker, Mr and Mrs George Denman, Professor E T Hall, Professor G Wedell, Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, and Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Mr Peter Lloyd, MP, Mr Roy Roebuck, Mr Michael Mates, MP, and Mrs Mates, Mr Neville Sandelson, Mr Tim Gold Blyth, Mr Michael Metcalf, Mr and Mrs Harold Mourgues, Mr Colin Wills, Mr David Elstein, Mr Derek Hunt, Mr Ben Marr, Mr John Hambley.

Mr Mike Phillips, Miss Jocelyn Barrow, Mr David Glencross, Mr and Mrs George Russell, Mr Colin Southgate, Mr and Mrs Bill Cotton, Mr Frank Gillard, Mr Gerard Mansell, Mr and Mrs Alasdair Milne, Mr and Mrs Howard Newby, Mr and Mrs John Wilkinson, Mr Raymond Baxter, Mr Christopher Bland, Mr Andrew Gardner, Mr Michael Grade, Mr R E H Hadingham, Mr and Mrs John Hull, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Isaacs, Mr Glyn Tegai Hughes, Mr Philip Chappell, Mr Ronald Denny, Mr Roger Young, Mr Peter Leslie, Mr and Mrs John Kemp-Welch, Mr Donald MacPherson, Mr Henry Lambert, Mr Cliff Michelmore, Major James Ogilvie, Mr David Plowright, Mr Peter Orchard, Mr and Mrs John Raisman.

Mr and Mrs Dennis Silk, Mr Andrew Stewart-Roberts, Mr and Mrs Donald Trelford, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Tucker, Mr John Whitney, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Wills, Mr Robert Worcester, Mr and Mrs John Henderson, Colonel and Mrs Tommy Wallis, Mr and Mrs Paul Gunn, Mr and Mrs Tom Grillo, Mr and Mrs Richard Hardman, Mr and Mrs Richard Harris, Mr and Mrs Roger Morrison, Mr and Mrs Nigel Robson, Mr and Mrs Nigel Clark, Mr and Mrs Nicky Henderson, Mr Brian Tesler, Mr John Cole, Mr and Mrs Malcolm Kimmins, Mr and Mrs Richard Burton, Mrs Anna McCurley, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, Mr Alfie Bruce, Mr Christopher Sporborg, Mr Ian Cowburn, Major-General and Mrs Bernard Penfold and Mr Sandy Struthers.

Sir William Leech

The Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Leech held yesterday in Newcastle Cathedral. The Very Rev Nicholas Coulton, provost, officiated and Canon David Wood, the Rev John Richardson, the Right Rev Kenneth Gill and Miss Ruth Etchells led the prayers.

Mr Lionel Scott, Chairman of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and Mr Dennis Webb, Director of Beazer Homes, read the lessons. Mr Roy Leech read from the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Lord Walton of Detchant gave an address.

Vintners' Company

The following awards have been announced:
Vintners' scholarship: Miss Caroline Hansberry, of Wine Rack, Walton Street, London SW3; Vintners' bursary: Mr K. R. Price, of Connolly's, Edmund Street, Birmingham.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr C.L.S. Boswell
and Miss S.J. Eadie**
The engagement is announced between Crawford Lindsay Simpson, third son of Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander and Lady Boswell, of Gifford, East Lothian, and Susan Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Eadie, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

**Mr C.S. Grassie
and Miss J. Allen**
The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs A.I. Grassie, of Singapore, and Jorie, daughter of Mr C.F. Allen, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Mrs C.R. Walgreen III, of Lake Forest, Illinois.

**Mr J.J.D. Haswell
and Dr S. Steiner**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs James Haswell, of Fulham, and Sybille, daughter of Herr Helmut and Frau Renate Steiner, of Bielefeld, Germany.

**Mr S.F.B. Lyons
and Miss F.E. McIntosh**
The engagement is announced between Fergus, elder son of the late Mr F.J. Lyons and of Mrs M.J. Burke and stepson of Mr M.J. Burke, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. McIntosh, of Canterbury, Victoria, Australia.

**Mr P.A. Molony
and Miss J.P. Lockhart Smith**
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Dr and Mrs J. Molony, of Donnybrook, Dublin, and Judith, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs L. Lockhart Smith, of Weybridge, Surrey.

**Mr R.M.J. Powell
and Miss P.M. Hayes**
The engagement is announced between Matthew Powell, of Woburn Place, London, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs George Powell, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hanson Hayes, of Drury, Buckley, Clwyd.

**Mr J. Simpson
and Miss J.M. Pinsent**
The engagement is announced between Jim, son of Mr and Mrs John Simpson, of Woodlands Farm, Barwick-in-Elmet, Yorkshire, and Jo, younger daughter of Sir Christopher and Lady Pinsent, of The Chestnuts, Castle Hill, Guildford.

**Captain D.J.H. Roblin
and Miss A.E.P. Sclater**
The engagement is announced between David, The 9th/12th Royal Lancers (POW's), son of the Ven and Mrs G.H. Roblin, of Farnborough, Hampshire, and Alice, only daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs E.G.L. Sclater, of Abington Pigotts Hall, Cambridgeshire.

**Mr T.J.C. Steele
and Miss E.C. Short**
The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of Major General and Mrs Michael Steele, of Redhill, Surrey, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robertson Short, of Santa Barbara, California.

**Dr C.R. Stone
and Miss J.E. Neale**
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Stone, of Cosham, Hampshire, and Judith, elder daughter of Mr M.C. Neale, CB, and Mrs Neale, of Twyford, Berkshire.

**Mr K.D.H. Suratgar
and Miss M. Turgut**
The engagement is announced between Karim, son of Mr David Suratgar and the late Mrs Barbara Suratgar, of Oxford, and Müge, daughter of Dr and Mrs Ulker Turgut, of Annapolis, Maryland.

**Mr D.A. Wilkinson
and Miss L. Juggins**
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs B.F. Wilkinson, of Guisborough, Cleveland, and Lindsey, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N.D. Juggins, of Empingham, Rutland.

**Mr R.J. Yandle
and Miss J.S. Bray**
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs H.J. Yandle, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs N.P. Bray, of Holwell, Dorset.

Marriage

**Mr J.G. Nash
and Mrs A. Allen**
The marriage took place in London, on Tuesday, March 5, between James Nash and Ann Allen.

O Lord, I will always sing of your constant love: I will proclaim your faithfulness for ever.
Psalm 89 : 1 G.N.B

BIRTHS

BARTHOLOMEW - On February 19th 1991, to Madelyn (née Mitchell) and Richard, a son, Jack William.

BERNHARD - On March 1st, to Martine (née Mozet) and Richard, a son, David Gerald, brother to Lawrence.

BROWNE - On February 26th, to Nina (née Martyn) and Simon, a daughter, Richenda.

CLIFFORD - On March 5th, at The Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Caroline (née Marshall Roberts) and Rollo, a daughter, Sophie Katharine Rose, half-sister to Emma, Elizabeth, Edward, Christopher and Alasdair.

FUNNELL - On March 5th, to Susan Elizabeth (née Wright) and Mark Andrew, a daughter, Harriet.

GAYNER - On March 1st, at the Lindo Wing, to Nicky and Johnny, a son, Thomas Frizzell.

HANCOX - On March 2nd, to Judy (née Ridgway) and John, a daughter, Rosie.

JAMES - On February 26th, in Bad Homburg, Germany, to Sabine and Kenneth, a son, Christopher Martin.

LACEY - On March 2nd, to Susan and Graham, a son, Luke Royston. Sincere thanks to all the staff at The Garden Hospital.

LAMB - On March 2nd, to Elizabeth (née May) and John, a son, Harry, a brother for Robert.

LEADER - On February 28th, at The Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Nicola (née White-Smith) and Rory, a daughter, Samantha Rose Colebrook, 6lbs 6oz.

LEWIS - On February 28th, at Hexham General Hospital, to Jane (née Strong) and Michael, a son, Wilfred John Michael.

MARKES - On March 1st, to Lucy and Charlie, a daughter, Rose Charlotte Blackland, a sister for Daisy.

NEWING - On February 27th, at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Janet (née Longmore) and David, a daughter, Suzanne Barbara, a sister for Gregory.

OSBORNE - On March 4th, in New York, to Alison (née Verrall) and David, a daughter, Catherine Margaret Alice.

STITCHER - On March 4th, to Penelope (née Taylor) and Gregory, a daughter, Eleanor, a sister for Adam and Sam.

THORNELY - On March 5th, to Susie (née Vincent) and Richard, a daughter, Isabella Rose, a sister for Rebecca and Diccon.

WOODMAN - On March 1st, to Jill (née Chalmers) and Richard, a daughter, Anna Elise, a sister for Laura and Sophie.

DEATHS

BANNISTER - On March 4th 1991, peacefully at Trevaylor Nursing Home, Penzance, Mildred Mary, aged 89 years, wife of the late Dr. Roderick Thompson Bannister, of The Lidden, Penzance. Cremation service at Penmount, Truro (Trelawney Chapel), on Friday March 8th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations for Cancer Research may, if desired, be sent to Alfred Smith & Son Funeral Directors, Penzance.

BARBER - On March 3rd 1991, Harry James, of Claygate, Surrey, after a long illness, aged 86 years. Formerly Research Controller, May and Baker. Much loved husband of Joyce, father of Margaret, Richard, Ann and Judith and grandfather of Nicolas, Bridget, Rebecca, Toby and Benedict. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Wednesday March 13th at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if wished to The Parkinson's Disease Society (for research).

BONARD - On March 1st 1991, peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Hazel Urquhart Brown Bonard (née Carnegie-Brown), aged 83. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. The funeral service will be at Islington Crematorium, High Road, East Finchley, at 2 pm on Monday March 11th. Flowers to Wigley's, 137 Northcote Road, SW11 by 10am.

BOULTON - On March 1st, suddenly and peacefully at home, Gwen, aged 81 years, known to many as 'Gypsy Lena'. Beloved wife of the late Arthur James, dear sister of Marian, fond aunt of Geoffrey and Bernard. Funeral Service at St Morwenna Church, Marhamchurch, Bude, Cornwall, on Tuesday March 12th at 3 pm.

CROUCH - On Sunday March 3rd 1991, peacefully, Pamela Martha Elizabeth. Dearly beloved and most devoted wife of the late Derek Crouch, and deeply loved mother of Rex, Henry, Tessa, Tina, Michael and Fay: adored by her ten grandchildren. Funeral Service on Wednesday March 13th at 2 pm, St Margaret's Church, Saturday Market Place, Kings Lynn. Family flowers only please, but if desired, donations to Motor Neurone Disease Association c/o Downham Funeral Service, Harwin House, Bridge Road, Downham Market, Norfolk.

DUFTON - On February 26th 1991, Kathleen, the only daughter of the late Arthur Dufton, Her Majesty's Inspector of Secondary Schools.

GENT - On February 28th, Joan, peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne. Sadly missed. Funeral will be held at the South London Crematorium on Tuesday March 12th at 2 pm. All enquiries to Maxwell Brothers, (081) 764-2245.

HALL - On Sunday March 3rd, Charles William, peacefully, of Brick Kiln Lane, Shepshed. Founder of Charles W. Hall PLC. Funeral Service will take place at St Botolph's Parish Church, Shepshed, Leics., on Friday March 8th at 2 pm. No flowers, donations to Leukaemia Fund c/o Charles W. Hall PLC., Forest Street, Shepshed, nr Loughborough, Leics.

HENRY - On March 4th, quietly at home, Richard. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday March 11th at 11 am. Flowers to T.H. Sanders & Sons, 35 High Street, Barnes, London SW13. Tel: 081-876 5255 or donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ.

HILLYARD - On March 2nd 1991, peacefully in the Isle of Wight, Pat Hillyard O.B.E., former Head of BBC Light Entertainment, Television and Radio, aged 90 years. Beloved husband of Babs and much loved father of Robin and grandfather of Lucy, Dominic and Jemma. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday March 8th at 1.15 pm. All enquiries and flowers to E. Larner & Sons, (081) 788-2942. Donations to Parkinsons Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA.

INGLIS - On March 2nd 1991, peacefully at her daughter's home, Elizabeth Ann (née Gripper) of Croyde, North Devon. Much loved and missed wife of Michael (Major ret'd). Mother and friend to Katy, Ni and Ro and Oma to Tammy, Barnaby and Abbi. Funeral Service at the North Devon Crematorium. For further details contact Padfields Funeral Service, Barnstaple. No flowers please. Donations to Cancer Research.

JARROTT - On March 1st, at home, Katharine Jarrott (Katharine Blake, actress), sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral to take place at Golders Green Crematorium (West Chapel) at 3.30 pm on Thursday March 7th. Flowers may be sent to Leverton & Sons, 212 Eversholt Street, NW1 or donations to The World Wildlife Fund.

NICHOLLS - On March 3rd 1991, at home after a long illness, Dr. Nicolai (Nic), M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 90, beloved husband of Lottie, father of John, father-in-law of Nancy, grandfather of Julian and Stephen. Mourned and missed by friends and relatives. The world now seems a sadder place.

PENNEY - On March 3rd, peacefully at home, Baron Penney of East Hendred, O.M., K.B.E., F.R.S., loved husband of Joan, father of Martin and Christopher and grandfather of Claire, Kate and Richard. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service on Friday March 15th at 2.30 pm at St Augustine's Church, East Hendred, near Wantage. No flowers. Donations if so desired may be sent to Cancer Research.

PHELPS - On March 3rd 1991, at home, Hillview House, Priors Marston, Warwickshire, Harold Vandeleur, aged 83, loved husband of Mitty, father of Anne and Rosie and devoted grandfather. Private cremation at his request.

QUINN-HALL - On March 2nd 1991, peacefully after a long illness bravely fought at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, Thomas Inder (Tom), beloved husband of Anne and loving father of Derek and Suzie. Cremation Service at Slough Crematorium, Thursday March 7th at 1 pm. No flowers please, but donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A.

RAVENSDALE - On March 2nd 1991, suddenly and peacefully, Rosemary Laura, beloved mother of Shaun, Ivo, Robert and Clare. Funeral at Bride Church, Isle of Man, on Thursday March 7th 1991 at 2 pm. Friends welcome. A Memorial Service will be held in London at a later date. Enquiries and floral tributes to Corkhill & Callow Ltd., 34 West Quay, Ramsey, Isle of Man, tel: (0624) 813114.

RAYNER - On Monday March 4th, at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, Russell, aged 49, of Sandhouse, Broad Oak, Herefordshire. Beloved husband of Hilary, devoted father of Nicola, Lucy, Sophie and Mark. Funeral Service and interment at St Bridget's Church, Skenfrith, on Friday March 8th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Thrombosis and General Research Fund, Nevill Hall Hospital c/o Funds Hon. Treasurer, T.J.M. Williams Esq., Lloyds Bank Plc, Abergavenny. Further enquiries to R.J. Bevan Funeral Directors, tel: (0873) 830449.

REDESDALE - On Sunday March 3rd 1991, peacefully at home, Clement Napier Bertram Mitford, 5th Baron Redesdale. Greatly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Regent's Park, London NW1, on Monday March 11th, at 10.30 am, followed by cremation. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, Hampstead.

REYNOLDS - On March 3rd 1991, Dr. Alan Bryne, aged 80. Much loved brother of Dorothy. Formerly Lecturer in Department of English at University of Bristol and Warden of Churchill Hall. Funeral Service 11.30 am Tuesday March 12th at University and Parish Church of St Paul, St Paul's Road, Clifton, Bristol. Family flowers only. Donations to St Paul's Church, Clifton (Treasurer Graham Ash, 2 Stanley Road, Bristol, BS6 6NW).

RICHARDS-PEI - On February 20th in Melbourne after a long, brave fight, Daphne Elizabeth, aged 37. Very dearly loved and loving wife of Robert and mother of Senia, daughter of Kenneth and Prue Richards, sister, aunt and friend. Cremation and Thanksgiving Service have taken place in Australia. A Thanksgiving Service will be held in the Zouche Chapel, York Minster on Saturday March 23rd at 10.30 am. Donations may be made to Leukaemia Research Fund.

ROPER - On March 3rd, in Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey, Dorothy Noreen, of Stumplowe Crescent Road, Sheffield. Wife of Alan and mother of Susan and Alison. No flowers please but donations for the Intensive Care Unit, Princess Elizabeth Hospital and enquiries for funeral arrangements to John Heath & Sons Funeral Directors, Sheffield.

ROSS-GREETHAM - On Friday March 1st 1991, peacefully at Addenbrookes Hospital, Marti Jane, aged 58. Much loved mother and grandmother of Louise and Nicholas, Charlotte and Ross. Requiem Mass, The Catholic Church, Thaxted, at 2.30 pm Monday March 11th. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research (Addenbrookes), if desired, c/o P. Francis & Co., Town Street, Thaxted, Essex.

ROUTLEY - On Tuesday February 12th 1991, Robin Eric peacefully in Seattle aged 48 years, formerly of Jersey. All enquiries to Pitcher & Le Quesne Ltd., Funeral Directors, 59 Kensington Place, St Helier, Jersey. 0534 33330.

MARCH 6 **ON THIS DAY** 1848

Louis-Philippe, King of the French, was not the last French monarch to make for England when in trouble. His queen thanked two local Newhaven ladies who brought her a "chest of linen and toilet necessaries" but said she had already made some arrangements. The King died in 1850 at Claremont, Surrey.

THE EX-KING AND QUEEN OF THE FRENCH

The ex-King and Queen of the French arrived at the Croydon station at 15 minutes past 12 on Saturday morning from Newhaven, whence they had travelled in a special train provided for them by the Directors of the Brighton Railway. We subjoin some additional particulars of the ex-King's arrival and conduct at Newhaven, which will be found interesting:

The King, Queen, and a few attendants landed on the pier from the Southampton steam boat Express, and were received by some of the Customs' officers who conducted them to the Bridge inn about 12 o'clock. The whole of the rooms there had been engaged early in the morning for some refugees; but the proprietors scarcely expected the honour of Royalty coming to them. The news soon spread that the King had at last safely gained the shores of England; but to the credit of the inhabitants of Newhaven, no mob raised tumultuous shouts or noisy greetings. The Deputy-Consul, Mr Cole, soon waited upon their ex-Majesties, and the King expressed his anxious desire to communicate his arrival to Buckingham Palace. Accordingly, having written a letter to the Queen, it was despatched to Mr Iron, the secretary of the Steamboat Company at Newhaven, who immediately set off for Lewes to proceed to London. On Mr Iron's departure, it being thought proper to formally congratulate their Majesties on their safe arrival, and to offer the hospitality of the inhabitants of Newhaven, the Rev Theyre T Smith, the rector, the Rev F Spurrell, the curate, and Mr Elphick, the principal landowner, sent in their cards to His Majesty, intimating they had arrived to pay their respects; and they were immediately admitted to his presence. The King advanced and eagerly shook hands with all, expressing his delight at being once more among the English, whom he said were always his friends. "Truly happy and thankful indeed am I," the King said, "that I have once more arrived in England, and which I will not leave again. The bullets were striking the windows and doors when I escaped from the Tuileries, but here I am, safe and unhurt. I have nothing to tax my conscience with, and nothing to reflect upon (laying his hand upon his heart), and I thank you very much. But here are only two cards, and there are three of you, and I wish to take care of them all three, as containing the names of the kind friends, the first to welcome me to Newhaven and to England; where is the other?" Colonel Roumiguy accordingly gave the other card, which happened to be that of the rector of Newhaven, to His Majesty. "Mr Smith!" exclaimed the King, after identifying the individuals with their names; "that is curious indeed! and very remarkable that the first to welcome me should be a Mr Smith, since the assumed name was Smith by which I escaped from France; and look, this is my passport made out in the name of William Smith!"

About half-past 2 o'clock, knowing the distress the Queen must be in from having no luggage, Mrs Elphick, accompanied by her sister, Miss F Gray, proceeded to the inn with a chest of linen and toilet necessaries, to offer for Her Majesty's use. Having sent in their cards and explained the object of the visit to the Queen's attendant, Her Majesty immediately desired them to enter that she might return her thanks. After condoling with Her Majesty Mrs Elphick begged Her Majesty to make use of the contents of the box she had brought; but Her Majesty, with tears distinctly, yet most thankfully, declined the kindness. *"Vous êtes trop bonnes,"* she said, *"mais j'ai acheté des habits."*

STOKES - On March 2nd, after a long illness, Doreen, dear wife of Bernard Ernest. The funeral service will be at noon on Monday March 11th at St James, Old Milverton, followed by interment in the Church Cemetery. Family flowers only, but donations will be welcomed by the Cancer Help Centre, Iscoed, Pennant Melangell, Llangynog, SY10 0HQ.

WARD - On March 4th 1991, tragically drowned at St Lucia, Nora Vivienne, dearly beloved wife of Derek William Ward and mother of Peter, Simon and Philip. Details of funeral and interment at Canterbury to be announced later.

WILSON - On March 1st 1991, peacefully at home, Marjorie Gommersall Wilson, aged 78, widow of Ken, beloved mother of Tim and Christy and loving grandmother of Ben and Matthew. The funeral will take place at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, Monday March 11th at 2.20 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for a Memorial Tree may be sent c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, Pulteney Road, Bath BA2 4HP.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

INGLIS - The Thanksgiving Service for the life of Nesta Inglis will be held at Bloxham Parish Church at 2.30 pm on her 96th birthday, April 23rd 1991. Full details and parking arrangements from Tudor Hall School, Banbury, OX15 9UR, where those attending will be invited to tea.

THANKSGIVING service for Lavinia Smiley will take place tomorrow Thursday 7th March at Chelsea Old Church, Cheyne Walk at noon.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

MARTIN - Andrew. February 27th 1988. Remembered with love especially on this day, our wedding anniversary.

ADOPTIONS

JACKSON - On March 4th, finally, to Liz (née Fletcher) and Simon, a daughter, Kizzy, now aged 8 years, a sister for Henry.

BIRTHDAYS

DARLING Andrew. Happy 26th Birthday. Love Jessica.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 226931-A/1-CD(Ldn1).

LEGAL NOTICES

IMPACT GROUNDWORKS LIMITED

L Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 26th February 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 1 March 1991
M.R. Dorrington FIPA
Liquidator

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE OF CREDITORS' MEETINGS IN ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDINGS
R J SHRUBB & CO LIMITED
UNION PENSIONS AND ESTATE TRUSTEES LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors of both the above companies is to be held at The Victoria Rooms, Queens Road, Bristol, on 13 March 1991 at 10.00 a.m. to consider the Joint Administrators' proposals under S.23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing creditors' committees.
PRC Denham and DA Howell
Joint Administrators
of the above companies

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF
A.S.R.S. ESTABLISHMENT LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 6th April 1991, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and description, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned David Julian Buchler, of Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
25th February 1991.
David Julian Buchler
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF
A.S.R.S. ESTABLISHMENT LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 25th February 1991 David Julian Buchler of Buchler Phillips & Co. 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company by the members and creditors.
Signed David Julian Buchler
Date 25th February 1991

KINGSTON FLOORING CONTRACTS LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company are required on or before the 31st day of March 1991, to send their names and addresses, with particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned, Richard William James Long of Robson Rhodes, 186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU, the Liquidator of the Company; and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator either personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and in default thereof, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
DATED This 30th day of January 1991
RICHARD WILLIAM JAMES LONG
LIQUIDATOR

LE PETIT BOUCHON LIMITED
T/A "CHEZ MAX"

I, Jamie Taylor FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 8th February 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 1 March 1991
J. Taylor FIPA
Liquidator

Notice of appointment of liquidator voluntary winding up (Creditors)
Pursuant to section 109 of The Insolvency Act 1986

Company Number: 2504690. Name of company: Telefax Network Ltd. Previous name of company (if any): Starway Ltd. Nature of business: Office Communications. Type of Liquidation: Creditors' Voluntary. Address of registered office: Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ. Liquidator name and address: Richard Andrew Segal, SEGAL DAVIS ROSE, Treviot House 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ. Office holder no: 002685. Date of appointment: 14th February 1991. By whom appointed: Members' & Creditors'.
20th February 1991
R A Segal
Liquidator

BUREAU COMPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED
T/A "BCS"

I, Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 5th February 1991 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 1 March 1991
M.R. Dorrington
Liquidator

H.A. PARROCK & SONS LIMITED
Company Number: 945636

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 46(1) of The Insolvency Act 1986 that KEITH DAVID GOODMAN, FCA and PHILIP MONJACK, FCA of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, were appointed Administrative Receivers of the whole of the property of the above Company on Thursday, 21st February, 1991 by Midland Bank Plc under the powers contained in a Debenture incorporating a Fixed and Floating Charge dated 17th December, 1984.
Dated the 21st day of February 1991
K.D. GOODMAN, FCA
P. MONJACK, FCA
JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS

HILLS GOWNS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester M3 2LE on Tuesday 19th March 1991 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Notice is further given that David A.T. Wood, F.C.A., of Latham Crossley & Davis, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors free of charge with such information as they may reasonably require pursuant to section 98 (2)(a).
Dated 26th February 1991
Catherine Doyle,
Director

HUMBERSIDE PROPERTIES LIMITED

Registered number: 983944. Nature of business: PROPERTY DEVELOPER. Trade classification: 35. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 22 FEBRUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: MIDLAND BANK PLC. GORDON CHRISTOPHER HORSFIELD AND ROGER MARSH. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 8699/01 and 8925/01. Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE 9 BOND COURT LEEDS LS1 2SN

Re: BMI Corporate Finance Limited
(In Administrative Receivership)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of the above-named company will be held at The London Chamber of Commerce, 69 Cannon St, London EC4Y 5AB on the 12th March, 1991, at 11.00 a.m., for the purposes of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a creditors' committee to exercise the functions conferred on, by, or under the Act.

Creditors are only entitled to vote if:
(a) they have delivered to us at the address shown above, no later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the meeting, written details of the debts they claim to be due, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and
(b) there has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to use on his behalf.
Dated this day of
24th February 1991
Brian Mills
and Colin George Wiseman
Joint Administrative Receivers

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
BLONDEN PROPERTIES (IPSWICH) LIMITED
(In Administrative Receivership)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 3.9 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of Blonden Properties (Ipswich) Limited will be held at No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 14th day of March 1991 at 10.30 am. The Receivers' report will be presented to the meeting and the opportunity given to elect a committee to represent the creditors.

A Creditor will be entitled to vote at the meeting only if details in writing of the debt claimed to be due to him by the company have been given to the administrative receivers at No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL no later than noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, and the claim has been admitted in accordance with the Insolvency Rules 1986.

Creditors may vote either in person or by proxy and a proxy should be lodged with the administrative receivers if possible before the meeting. A secured creditor is entitled to vote only in respect of the balance (if any) of his debts after deducting the value of his security as estimated by him. Creditors who are wholly secured are not entitled to be represented or to vote.
Dated the 28 day of February 1991
M C Bailan ACA
Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
-and-
IN THE MATTER DORSET BOARDMILLS LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of UNSECURED CREDITORS will be held at The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton on Wednesday, the 20th day of March 1991 at 10.30 am for the purpose of receiving a report covering the background to and progress of the receivership together with other matters stipulated by Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

CREDITORS SHOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING:
1. THE MEETING IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A LIQUIDATOR TO THE COMPANY.
2. THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF A DIVIDEND TO UNSECURED CREDITORS.

Please note that a person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if the provisions of Rule 3.11(1) Insolvency Rules 1986 have been complied namely that: (1) he has given to the joint administrative receiver at the offices of Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, SO1 1XF, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the Company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11(2)-(7) Insolvency Rules 1986 and
(2) there has been lodged with the joint administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Copies of the receivers' report will be provided free of charge to all creditors who ask the receivers for a copy at the above address.

The only motion to be put before the meeting is the appointment and construction of the receivership creditors' committee under Section 49 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Dated this 4th day of March 1991
P S Padmore
Joint Administrative Receiver
Dorset Boardmills Limited

HUMBERSIDE PROPERTIES INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Registered number: 1066094. Nature of business: PROPERTY DEVELOPER. Trade classification: 35. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 22 FEBRUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: MIDLAND BANK PLC. GORDON CHRISTOPHER HORSFIELD AND ROGER MARSH. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 8699/01 and 8925/01. Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE 9 BOND COURT LEEDS LS1 2SN

RE: B & J Tyres (Barking) Ltd
and
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Woodford Moat House, 30 Oak Hill, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9NY, on Monday the 11th March 1991, at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Segal David Rose, Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex. IG1 1JQ between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. as from Thursday 7th March 1991.
Dated this 21st day of February 1991
I B Wilson
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
C.A.D. PLC

Registered number: 2126521. Nature of business: HOLDING COMPANY FOR SHOPFITTING MANUFACTURER. Trade classification: 11. Date of Appointment of administrative receivers: 19 FEBRUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: FENNOSCANDIA BANK LTD. ANTHONY W. BRIERLEY & JOHN A. TALBOT Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 5641 and 2731). Address: ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO., P.O. BOX 55, 1 SURREY STREET LONDON WC2R 2NT.

Notice of appointment of liquidator
Voluntary winding up (Creditors)
Pursuant to section 109 of The Insolvency Act 1986

Company Number: 2282077. Name of company: Thought Academy Limited. Nature of business: Gift Product Publishers. Address of registered office: 2nd Floor, Rosebery House, 61 South Street, Epsom, Surrey. Type of Liquidation: Creditors. Liquidator: R.A. Segal Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford Essex IG1 1JQ. Office Holder No: 002685. Date of appointment: 12 February 1991. By whom appointed: The Company/Creditors/Court.
R A Segal
19 February 1991

Notice of appointment of liquidator
Voluntary winding up (Creditors)
Pursuant to section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986

Company number: 1668336. Name of company: Sounds Right Limited. Nature of business: Record Retailers. Address of registered office: 38 The Broadway Stratford London E15. Type of Liquidation: Creditors. Liquidator: R.A. Segal Treviot House, 186-192 High Road Ilford Essex IG1 1JQ. Office Holder No: 002685. Date of appointment: 18 February 1991. By whom appointed: Creditors.
20 February 1991
R A Segal
Liquidator

PORTMAN REFRIGERATION COMPANY LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION

TAKE NOTICE THAT I, the undersigned Nigel John Hamilton-Smith of Morton Thornton & Co. 49 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1LJ, was appointed Liquidator of Portman Refrigeration Company Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 22nd February 1991.
DATED this 22nd day of February 1991
N J HAMILTON-SMITH
Liquidator

RE: Barfields Advertising & Publicity Ltd
and
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Woodford Moat House, 30 Oak Hill, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9NY, on Wednesday the 13th March 1991, at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Segal Davis Rose, Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex. IG1 1JQ. between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm as from Monday 11th March 1991.
Dated this 25th day of February 1991
M W Holland
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
MOODISPLAY (SHOPFITTING) LTD.

Registered number: 1557699. Nature of business: SHOPFITTERS. Trade classification: 11. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 19 FEBRUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: FENNOSCANDIA BANK LTD. ANTHONY W. BRIERLEY & JOHN A. TALBOT Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 5641 and 2731). Address: ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO., P.O. BOX 55, 1 SURREY STREET LONDON WC2R 2NT.

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
ALTEC DISPLAY & STORAGE SYSTEMS LTD.

Registered number: 2171016. Nature of business: MANUFACTURERS OF STORAGE SYSTEMS. Trade classification: 11. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 19 FEBRUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: FENNOSCANDIA BANK LTD. ANTHONY W BRIERLEY & JOHN A. TALBOT Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 5641 and 2731) Address: ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO. P.O. BOX 55, 1 SURREY STREET LONDON WC2R 2NT.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
ACTION PLANT HIRE LIMITED

Registered number: 1068823. Nature of business: PLANT AND TOOL HIRE. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 28 FEBRUARY 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: BARCLAYS BANK PLC, BROAD QUAY HOUSE, BROAD QUAY, BRISTOL. PETER LEONARD THURSTON AND ANTHONY MALCOLM DAVID BIRD Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 6423 and 1249). Address: QUEEN ANNE HOUSE, 69-71 QUEEN SQUARE, BRISTOL BS1 4JP

Notice of appointment of liquidator
Voluntary winding up (Creditors)
Pursuant to section 109 of The Insolvency Act 1986

Company Number: 415266. Name of company: La Piaff of Knightsbridge Ltd. Nature of business: Retailers of Ladies Clothing. Type of Liquidation: Creditors Voluntary. Address of registered office: Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex. IG1 1JQ. Liquidator name and address: Richard Andrew Segal. SEGAL DAVIS ROSE, Treviot House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford Essex IG1 1JQ. Office Holder No: 002685. Date of appointment: 15th February 1991. By whom appointed: The Members and Creditors
R A Segal
19 February 1991

Notice of appointment of liquidator
Voluntary winding up (Creditors)
Pursuant to section 109 of The Insolvency Act 1986

Company Number: 2056734. Name of company: Economic Ductwork Ltd. Nature of business: Ductwork Supply and Insulation. Type of Liquidation: Creditors' Voluntary. Address of registered office: Treviot House 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ Liquidators name and address: Richard Andrew Segal Segal Davis Rose. Treviot House 186-192 High Road Ilford Essex IG1 1JQ. Office holder number: 002685. Date of appointment: 13th February 1991. By whom appointed: Members' & Creditors'.
R A Segal
Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

Manweb plc

APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Manweb plc has applied for a Private Electricity Supply Licence in the following terms:

1. Full name of the applicant(s): Manweb plc

2. Address of the applicant(s): or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principle office
Sealand Road,
Chester, CH1 4LR

3. Where the applicant is a company, the Directors and the Company's registered number

Chairman	Bryan Henry Weston
Managing Director	Richard Thomas Gales
Executive Directors	Denis Farquhar
	Peter Donald Hopkins
	Colin William Leonard
	John Edward Roberts
Non-Executive Directors	Sheila Margaret Nesta Garston
	Richard Francis Morgan
	George Eryl Morris
	Glen Nightingale
Company Secretary	David Nicholas Williams
Registered No	2366937

4. Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided. Not applicable

5. Desired date from which the licence is to take effect.
1st April 1991

6. A sufficient description adequately specifying the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below.

All non-domestic premises with a maximum demand of over 1 MW in England and Wales in the authorised areas of the following public electricity suppliers: Eastern Electricity plc: East Midlands Electricity plc: London Electricity plc: Midlands Electricity plc: Northern Electric plc: Norweb plc: SEEBOARD plc: Southern Electric plc: South Wales Electricity plc: South Western Electricity plc: Yorkshire Electricity Group plc.

7. (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand for each power band. (b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1st April 1994 then only Power band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1998 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect.

Power Band	No of Premises	Aggregate max demand	Energy (GWh) to be supplied
(A) Not exceeding 0.1 MW	None		
(B) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	None		

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned by or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant.

Any premises in the areas identified in paragraph 6 will be supplied using the existing system of electric lines and electrical plant owned by the relevant Public Electricity Supply Company, the National Grid Company plc or an authorised electricity operator.

9. A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land, etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying.

Any powers that may be reasonably necessary for the purposes of providing a supply in pursuance of the Private Electricity Supply Licence.

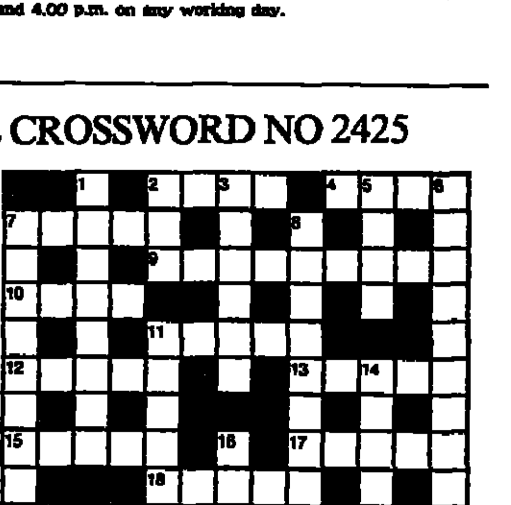
10. Details of any licences held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity.

A public electricity supply licence.

Copies of maps relevant to this application have been lodged in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) Regulations 1990 at Regional Offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation and are available for inspection by the public between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on any working day.

D N Williams.
Company Secretary

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2425



ACROSS
2 Ornithologist's tent (4)
4 Game period (4)
7 Imagine (5)
9 Investment group (9)
10 Den (4)
11 In that place (5)
12 Professorship (5)
13 Disney deer (5)
15 Wooden dishes (5)
17 Journal (5)
18 Surge (5)
20 Seethe (4)
21 Fine example (9)
23 Non-rigid airship (5)
24 Following (4)
25 Pierce (4)

DOWN
1 Destroy large part (8)
2 RN ship title (1,1,1)
3 Hazard (6)
5 Elsewhere (4)
6 Revealing mistake (8,4)
7 Prepared food shop (12)
8 Sea float (8)
11 Nave wing (8)
14 "Tulip" tree (8)
16 Customer (6)
19 Bamboozle (4)
22 Recede (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2424

ACROSS: 1 Before 4 Topic 8 Word processor 9 Reading 10 Serf 11 Hut 13 Jeté 14 Home 17 Dab 20 Lope 22 Look-see 24 Unquestioning 25 Elegy 26 Afraid

DOWN: 1 Byword 2 Forbade 3 Repaired 4 Then 5 Paste 6 Carafe 7 Tough 12 Throw off 15 Messina 16 Clause 18 Blitz 19 Begged 21 Pique 23 Levy

Shedding light on the shadow

The postponement of a museum exhibition dedicated to death has highlighted our continuing squeamishness about the one thing in life that comes to us all. Libby Purves reports

A contumelious debate is arising over the decision to postpone — perhaps for two years — an ambitious exhibition of funerary art. Later this month, the Victoria & Albert museum should have been a-glitter with coffin-plates, sombre with black velvet and nodding with plumes as it launched "The Art of Death", three years in the preparation. The decision to postpone was taken when the nation feared high allied casualties in the Gulf war. Was it, is it, a wimp's reaction? Is it tactful or cowardly to avoid mentioning death in dangerous times? Would they have cancelled it for one of the more common tragedies of peacetime, such as Bradford or King's Cross? Together with the argument as to whether the Gulf victory parade should be a sad memorial or an all stops-out celebration, it touches on one of the great awkwardnesses of our time: how to respond to death.

There may be some help at hand. Definitely coming out this month is a study of the English funeral in the past 500 years, *The English Way of Death* (Robert Hale, price £18.95), by Julian Litten (who, coincidentally, also works at the V&A as the curator of administration). He has no doubt at all about his book's appropriateness: even had the ground war proved disastrous, he would have wanted it published. "Dying is the only event guaranteed to happen to all of us," he says robustly. "What I have done is a study of how we, as a nation, have coped with it from 1450 onwards." There is nothing disrespectful about studying funerals, he says: rather the contrary. He points out that one can learn from earlier conflicts, too: "It was the first world war which actually marked the end of the grand Victorian funeral. After all, how unseemly to put on a great show of plumes and black velvet and crests for your old granny, when the woman down the street was never going to get her boy's body home and knew she would not be able to visit his grave for years. With so much sadness and death around, ostentation had to decline."

A preternaturally pale, slight, fortyish bachelor with a watch-chain, High Anglican enthusiasms and a lifetime's hobby of studying funeral furnishings, Mr Litten does seem at first sight to be an invention of Sir John Betjeman in some mischievous mood. But one rapidly absolves him from any charge of posing. He loves the history of funerals for the same reason that he specialises in ecclesiastical architecture: he is fascinated by the point of contact between human life and eternity, and with society's aesthetic response to each. A 15th century memorial brass and the Muzak in a modern crematorium are both, in their way, attempts to make sense of the mystery of death. His insights into human nature are considerable. After all, every foible, from 17th century morbidity to Victorian materialism and the stoicism of the world wars, is shown up in the way the dead are treated, what they are wrapped in, how they are labelled and laid to rest. Someone had to document it all: in Mr Litten the subject has found a sober, amused, sympathetic interpreter.

> *'There is no excuse for a crematorium looking like the waiting-room of some appalling private hospital'*

From childhood, he was passionate about ecclesiastical architecture (not so odd: before video games, remember, middle-class children cycled around doing brass-rubbings for pleasure). Leaving a north London polytechnic, he talked himself into a job at the V&A when he was 18. Funerals had made an impression on him since he attended a schoolfriend's four years earlier, and he realised that "death is never very far off". In 1969, excavating the nave of a church with an archaeological group, he fell into a burial vault. Looking around, he saw "nothing gruesome. But there were elaborate breastplastes and backplates on the coffins, so I took some notes." Gradually he became known as a respectable expert, and was invited to other disturbed vaults and churchyards. He backed up his notes by collecting, from paintings and books and ephemera such as mourning-cards, evidence of the history of the English funeral.

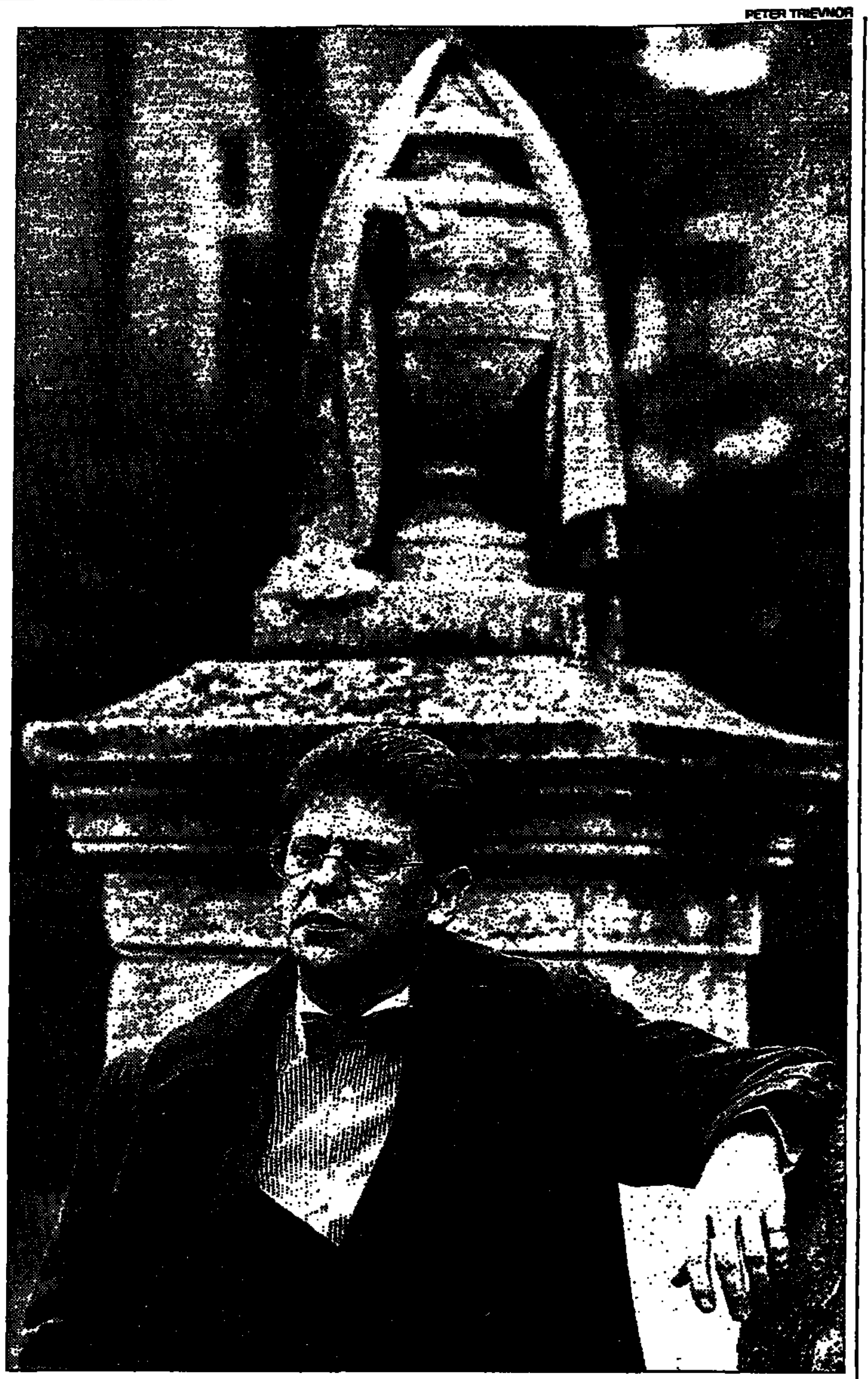
The funeral's development throws all sorts of odd lights on social history. By the end of the 18th century there was distinct snob value in purchasing a ritual which imitated the aristocratic. The Victorian poor were bamboozled into spending disproportionate sums on an unnecessary spectacle.

By the first world war, such funerals were ripe for simplification, and the arrival of the motor-hearse put paid to many of the trimmings: "You can't drape velvet on a van," Mr Litten says. Since then, although the selling of unnecessary furbelows such as fancy shrouds with bowties does continue, the trend has been towards ever-starker dismissals of the dead. Somewhere between vulgar pomp and air-terminal blandness, Mr Litten feels, must lie the golden mean: he would like to see better-designed crematoria. "The correct architectural setting is dramatic. There is no excuse for a crematorium looking like the waiting-room of some appalling private hospital." He cannot abide the modern convenience of memorial services. "Death should disrupt. It does not come at our convenience. There is something insulting about people not going to the funeral, but to some largely secular event arranged to fit everyone's diary."

But the book keeps such strictures to an austere minimum. Rather he records the pomp, the pathos, and the oddities of death.

Some tackle it head-on, like John Donne, the poet, dressing up in a shroud to have his likeness taken, or a certain Mr Drax of Dorset who rehearsed his funeral all through the 1880s, being carried down the drive in a coffin shouldered by his gardeners, and shouting: "Hi, down your eyes, keep step! You are shaking the corpse!" Some become unhealthily fixed on preserving the body: the embalming chapter contains details of Hannah Beswick ("The Manchester Mummy") which only a man with Mr Litten's sure touch could get away with. Others go to the opposite extreme, like the attractively earnest surgeon who in 1875 wrote to *The Times* advocating wicker coffins filled with ferns and sweet herbs to biodegrade quickly.

PETER TREVNOR



Grave tidings: Julian Litten, author of a history of the English funeral through the centuries

Some attempt frivolity, like Colonel Lutrell who turned up on February 16, 1771, at Mrs Cornely's Masquerade at the Pantheon dressed as a coffin and "cast such a gloom over the proceedings that he was obliged to leave almost as soon as he had arrived".

Mr Litten is largely undisturbed by the things he has seen, only once in his researches having come by accident upon a recently vandalised tomb, which shocked him. "My reaction was: 'Oh, the poor person, they wouldn't have wanted anyone to see them like that.' Death must have its decency." In fact, the only sign of vulnerability I could detect came in his surprising confession that he cannot bring himself ever to use a sleeping-bag. "No . . . perhaps I've seen too many shrouds . . ." He cheers up when describing the plans for his own funeral. "A solid coffin of oak 1½ inches thick, finished with eight coats of beeswax. I hope my relatives will have a party where the only refreshment served is champagne, iced gingerbread, and fruitcake saturated with brandy."

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Of God and Mammon

Big money awaits a religious prizewinner

This afternoon in New York, a prominent British Jew will be given the world's largest monetary award in recognition of his achievements in advancing the world's understanding or love of God.

He will be the first Jew to win the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, worth £410,000.

The award was created in 1972 by Sir John Templeton, the Wall Street financier and religious philanthropist, to fill what he felt was a void in existing awards. The first winner, in 1973, was Mother Teresa. Last year the prize was shared by Baba Amte, a Hindu lawyer who has devoted his life to advancing the cause of India's lepers, and Charles Birch, an Australian biologist researching issues of science and faith.

Sir John, aged 78, was knighted by the Queen in 1987 for charitable services. He funded Templeton College at Oxford.

He was born in 1912 in Winchester, Tennessee, the son of a lawyer and cotton grower. He won a place at Yale in 1930 to read economics. After a Rhodes scholarship took him to Oxford, he started on Wall Street in 1937.

He heads a worldwide financial empire of more than 64 mutual funds managing more than $16 billion. He likes Britain and became naturalised some years ago.

To underscore the importance of the Templeton Prize, he stipulated it must always be larger than the Nobel. Most of the winners, who include Alexander Solzhenitsyn, have used the money to further the causes which brought them to the attention of the Templeton Foundation. Mother Teresa invested her prize money in the Missionaries of Charity, founded by her to help homeless children in Calcutta. Billy Graham devoted his prize in 1982 to helping itinerant third world evangelists.

One of the stated goals of the award is to increase sensitivity to the diversity of religious thought. The nine judges are instructed to consider all faiths. Sir John, a Presbyterian elder, does not take part in choosing the winner.

Sir John believes the prize is not for saintliness or good works, but for progress. One of his goals has been to "influence educated people to wake up to religion". This year's winner can be guaranteed to attempt to do that.

RUTH GLEDHILL

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& BRIEFLY

The book that binds

WITH the waiting list for counselling from Relate (formerly the National Marriage Guidance Council) now up to nine months long in some areas, *The Relate Guide to Better Relationships*, a DIY manual of marriage guidance, is bound to be a best-seller. The book, published tomorrow by Ebury Press at £6.99, intersperses case studies with advice and sets readers "tasks", such as listing everything that annoys them about their partner, and talking together about sexual stimuli. The book looks at the impact on relationships of working motherhood, affairs and life changes such as retirement or the children leaving home — and gives guidance on how to get through such events. It also discusses the difference between living together and marriage.

Chelsea style

THE design showrooms of Chelsea will be thrown open to the public on Friday and Saturday as part of the week-long annual event known as Chelsea Design Week. Participants include Anna French, Bernard Thorp, Brunschwig & Fils, Chesil Court Studios, Christopher Wray Lighting, Colefax & Fowler and Designers Guild. Complimentary transport will run between the showrooms, and there are lectures all week at the Chelsea Harbour Rooms, Chelsea Garden Market, at 7pm. Lectures cost £15 each. For details on any aspect of Chelsea Design Week — the earlier part of which has been for the trade — telephone 071-233 5971.

From fat to fit

"OVER-Forty Fatties" are welcome at the new gym at the Sanctuary, the women-only club in Floral Street, in London's Covent Garden. Yvonne Harper-Wake, the gym's managing director, says she wants it to attract working women who are not super-fit. Classes, payable on attendance, include low and high-impact aerobics, body conditioning, Reebok step work-outs, aquaerobics, the Alexander technique and t'ai chi. There is also a swimming pool. Group classes cost about £1.50 an hour, personal training is £30 an hour, annual membership costs £45 and "non-member casual use" is £10 daily. Opening hours are 7.15am to 9pm. Over-Forty Fatty sessions cost £150 for a six-week programme which includes both individual and group sessions.

War games

BEFORE the Gulf war ceasefire, the computer software company PD Soft produced a "USA vs Iraq" game which, it says, is "not a jingoistic cry for war but a strong comment on what a travesty it is for all involved". Details from PD Soft, 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2YD.

VICTORIA McKEE

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Fresh air on a high-tech shoestring

Sue Moore considers the journey of the sports shoe from space-age spin off to urban fashion statement

Legions of high-technology trainers are pounding urban pavements, their tongues hanging out. To traditionalists the conspicuous white glare of the chunky new sports shoes makes them seem as if they have landed from outer space. Appearances are not entirely deceptive. A closer look at the complicated internal workings of the trainers on display in the Science Museum's "Running on Air" exhibition reveals that the design of these fashionable shock absorbers for feet has its origins in space travel technology.

The exhibition traces the history of the air-cushioning system in the Nike company's sports shoes, which is based on an idea originally developed by an aerospace engineer, Frank Rudy. Studying the effects of the pressurised gas bags that let lunar modules land safely, Mr Rudy saw an alternative use for the concept. It was transposed to ski boots in the early Seventies, proved useful in ice hockey skates and basketball boots, and eventually, after Mr Rudy approached Nike with the idea, it was designed into the 1979 Tailwind, the first Nike shoe to use air-cushioning to support a foot. Subsequent models have included inflatable collars, and cutaway windows in the soles.

These high-technology developments are far removed from the customised clodhoppers which are the ancestors of today's lightweight sports shoes. Well into the late 19th century, rugby players and footballers tramped about the playing fields in hobnailed workboots. There was no such thing as a specifically designed sports shoe in Britain until 1876, when the New Liverpool Rubber Company produced a lightweight canvas croquet shoe with a vulcanised rubber soul. It swiftly earned the nickname "plimsoll", because the join between upper and sole resembled the loading lines painted on ships' hulls then being advocated by Samuel Plimsoll. The basic shape of the plimsoll remains a design classic, current in contemporary sneakers and deck shoes.

Vulcanised rubber still makes regular appearances in the soles of modern sports shoes, but in recent years the proliferation of new polyurethanes, foams and nylons has given shoe designers an impressive range of ingredients from which to develop comfortable and supportive trainers. Although uppers come in eye-catching colours and complicated fretwork connecting up to 30 separate pieces, the most innovative design technology is used to construct the soles. The 6ft models on show at the Science Museum reveal how Nike's "air support" soles are put together, and demonstrate the uses of each kind of material. Energetic visitors can give a hammering to a variety of different soles, imitating the rigorous testing of new designs at the company's sports research laboratory in Oregon.

The technological and biomechanical expertise invested in new trainer design reflects the manufacturers' belief that their products are primarily sports shoes. Whether that claim remains strictly true today is debatable, but certainly in their first incarnation, the shoes were designed by athletes for athletes. The founder of Reebok, Joseph William Foster, was a keen amateur runner. In 1892, frustrated by the weighty footwear on the market, he designed and made one of the first pairs of specialised spiked running pumps for himself.

Impressed by the design, fellow athletes in the Bolton Primrose Harriers running club put their orders in, and by the turn of the century Foster had set up the family business that later became Reebok International.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Soles in torment: exhausted London marathon runners give their feet a break; sports shoes have come a long way, too, since they set off in 1876

During the first half of the 20th century, requests from athletes for perfect running shoes set ever more demanding briefs for designers. Extra weight was shed, and less very definitely meant more. In 1938, when the sprinter, C.B. Holmes, won the Commonwealth Games 220yd race, he wore a very special pair of Foster's shoes. Their rubber soles were so thin that each pair lasted for only one race. Holmes ran his way through three separate pairs of pumps in the heat, semi-final and final before winning the gold medal.

Although the close connection between manufacturers and athletes continues, trainers are no longer élite sporting equipment. Twenty-five years ago, when New Balance produced the first wide-based running shoe designed on orthopaedic principles, it was available only through a special mail-order service to athletes. Now the designs which were originally intended to improve the speed and performance of serious athletes have gained highly marketable street credibility. Now New Balance shoes grace the feet of couch potatoes everywhere. They, and every other piece of technologically advanced sports footwear, are not just for the fit, but for the fashion conscious.

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- *"Running on Air" is at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (071-938 8181) from March 8 to May 10. Open 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun. £3.50 adults; £1.75 children (5-15 years), students, UB40s; £2 OAPs. Free 4.30-6pm daily.*

A cloves show for the heart

Tomorrow brings another boost for the health-giving properties of garlic

The herbaceous borders of natural medicine will be extended at a conference in Berlin tomorrow, when physicians, pharmacologists and fringe followers gather with just one word on their lips: garlic.

For thousands of years the pungent bulb has been used to treat everything from acne and arthritis to warts and worms. The ancient Greeks prescribed what they called the "stinking rose", and the Egyptians placed some in Tutankhamun's tomb.

Along the way, garlic has also served as a vampire repellent, an aphrodisiac, an essential ingredient in cooking and an English excuse for keeping the French at a distance. Only recently has another of its properties begun to be recognised and exploited. Research shows that garlic can protect against some forms of heart disease by reducing blood cholesterol levels, and the health food industry has sniffed a new way of making a fortune. The market in garlic supplements in Britain has doubled in the past three years and is now worth about £10 million annually. Every day, about half a million people in the UK swallow the virtually odourless tablets.

They include unlikely converts such as Ken Taylor, the British Heart Foundation's professor of cardiac surgery at London university and Hammersmith hospital. "My wife has been giving me them every day for the past couple of years," he says.

His approval is shared by the 250 delegates attending the four-day meeting at the Free university, Berlin. The international garlic symposium sounds like some kind of cloves show, but will be the venue for earnest appraisals of garlic research.

Berlin is an appropriate place for the conference, because the Germans are well ahead in the garlic stakes. According to Dr Jorg Grunwald, several million of his countrymen take a daily dose and garlic tablets are the ation's biggest-selling nonrescription drug.

Dr Grunwald, it should be aid, is head of the medical scientific department at Lichtwer Pharma, the Berlin company that makes Kwai, a leading brand of garlic supplements, and which is sponsoring the symposium. The company claims about half of the British market.

The most persuasive evidence of garlic's medical effect comes from a study carried out last year by the German Association of General Practitioners, involving 260 patients in 30 centres. After four months of treatment with concentrated garlic powder tablets, patients' cholesterol levels were reduced by 12 per cent, and levels of triglyceride, another type of lipid, or blood fat, were cut by 17 per cent.

Whether eaten raw, crushed, in oils or tablets, garlic is known to have antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties, and is said to be effective in treating asthma, bowel disorders, digestive complaints, kidney pain, insect stings, toothache, coughs and colds, sickness and diarrhoea, sore throats and voice loss.

Why should garlic be good for you? The answers are in its active ingredients, particularly allicin, a natural chemical that suppresses the production of blood fats in the liver (onions contain allicin but have a weaker effect).

"Perhaps the time has come to promote garlic eating in Britain and other northern European countries, and the prescription of garlic by doctors as part of a preventive or therapeutic package," says Dr Michael Turner, a London researcher, in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Health.*

Tom Sanders, a lecturer in nutrition at King's College, London, is unconvinced. He will attend the Berlin meeting, "to find out what's worthwhile and what's just hype", he says. Dr Sanders is designing the British study for the Family Heart Association, a charity based in Botley, Oxford. Barbara Morgan, one of the association's researchers, says: "The big snags are the unpleasant image garlic has for many people, and the fact that, for it to be effective, it will have to be taken just about every day of your life. That's a lot to swallow."

THOMSON PRENTICE

THE ART OF REACHING THAT FIRST MILLION.

On March 6th, 1991, a very significant tree will be planted at the Watergrove Reservoir, near Rochdale.

It will mark the culmination of three years effort by over 65,000 people.

It will demonstrate how generosity of time, energy and money can pay off to the benefit of us all.

For every one of these folk responded to the "Plant a Million Tree" campaign launched by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, with the added support of Esso and the Countryside Commission, in a bid to help replace the vast numbers lost each year in Britain.

And on March 6th all their efforts will be rewarded with the ceremonial planting of the one millionth tree.

Not that this occasion marks the end of the campaign. Far from it...

Now the momentum has been established, it's vital that the campaign is kept going – for every year, trees continue to be lost in great numbers and we need to carry on planting and caring for them.

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CINEMA: WAR FILMS

To the victor, the film rights

Geoff Brown issues an early warning for those planning films about the Gulf war

How not to: the SAS as seen in *Who Dares Wins*

So, the war is won. Across the United States, flags are flying more brightly than ever: plans are being laid for victory parades, memorial services and banquets to salute the boys from the Gulf. But what are they hatching in Hollywood? *Desert Storm: The Movie*? Will George C. Scott, the impersonator of Patton, add Stormin' Norman to his repertoire? And what lucky actor will emerge in moustache and green pullover as the roly-poly villain, Saddam Hussein? Jack Nicholson? Anthony Hopkins?

For the moment, it is too soon to tell. Production schedules carry the same low-budget fodder first mooted when the war began. From the Israeli producer Menahem Golan, we may expect Rob Lowe in *Desert Shield*, a film originally concerned with the Iran-Iraq war but rewritten to embrace US naval forces destroying an Iraqi missile site. Iraqi armed forces and terrorists have also entered the scripts of Trans Continental Film's *Target U.S.A.* and Roger Corman's *Shield of Honor*. Another film, Sidney J. Furie's *First Strike* — planned for over a year and now basking in sudden topicality — concerns Israel's bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

These movies, however, seem targeted more at video shelves than cinemas. The big-budget Hollywood movie cannot easily react to today's headlines: they take too long to prepare. Think of Paramount's experiences with *The Hunt for Red October*. In 1983, the studio heads snapped up film rights to Tom Clancy's novel about a defecting Russian naval commander, rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of a Cold War battle played out in high-tech submarines. By 1989, when the film moved into production, East-West relations had thawed; to make the plot viable, the action had to be lamely pushed back before glasnost. Two years on, with Kremlin hardliners in the ascendancy and the Baltic republics under siege, some Cold War icicles are forming again: had Paramount held on, its film might not have seemed so old-fashioned.

In any case, after six weeks of blanket television coverage, the average movie-goer is probably in no fit state to revisit the Gulf on the big screen. This was certainly the case after the second world war: any film that raked over past battles in the months after 1945 met with a frosty reception from a public dying for colour, escapism, and Betty Grable's legs. It takes time to get contemporary events into a perspective fit for thoughtful drama: one could argue that Hollywood has only achieved a grip on the Vietnam war in the past ten years.

Yet, if past experience is any guide, film producers will not be deflected. They see a bandwagon and jump on it, usually in groups. When Israeli commandos engineered a lightning raid in 1976, freeing Jewish hostages imprisoned by Arab terrorists at a Ugandan airport, three movies fell over each others' heels. Two, *Victory at Entebbe* and *Raid on Entebbe*, were American television productions, variously doused with soap-operatics and daft impersonations. *Operation Thunderbolt*, Menahem Golan's official Israeli version, featured the politicians themselves: they acted awkwardly but at least forced the film to brush shoulders with reality.

Remember, too, Euan Lloyd's *Who Dares Wins*: the appalling British film rushed into production in 1982 after the SAS concluded the siege of London's Iranian embassy in a whirlwind of firepower. Lewis Collins, Judy Davis, Richard Widmark, and other stars jostled in an abject script. Anyone itching to rush into *Desert Storm: The Movie* should dig up *Who Dares Wins*, view it, and pause for very serious thought.

HUMOUR

Making it hurt till they laugh

Much of comedy is said to be based on our pleasure at observing other people's pain. The complex relationship between humour and cruelty is examined by Barney Hoskyns

The French philosopher Henri Bergson, in his study *Le Rire* (1900), argued that in order to laugh we have to "put our affection out of court and impose silence on our pity". But why is it that so much of the funniest comedy — especially recent television comedy — should involve such blatant psychological and even physical sadism? Why do we find comic tyrants so painfully hilarious?

The great bullies of classic American comedy probably started the trend: the comparatively benign Oliver Hardy, eternally infuriated by the hopeless Stan Laurel; the endlessly scheming Phil Silvers, tyrannising an entire platoon in *Sergeant Bilko*; the raging Jackie Gleason, exploding weekly at Art Carney in *The Honeymooners*. In all of these situation comedies the same drama, the same emotional violence, was enacted and resolved within each episode.

On this side of the Atlantic the lessons of comic dominance and submission were quickly learned, particularly by the top comic duos. From Eric Morecambe, running quicksilver rings round the ever-obliging Ernie Wise, through middle-class Peter Cook ensnaring working-class Dudley Moore in a web of delirious surrealism, all the way to Jennifer Saunders using Dawn French as a kind of daughter-cum-emotional punchbag, there has been an "eternal return" to a primal scenario in which the submissive "straight man" is used and abused by the dominant "funny man".

Often these duos undergo curious shifts in their relationships over the years. As Kenneth Tynan observed of the Morecambe and Wise of the Seventies: "Ernie today is the comic *who is not funny*, and Eric — the dominating character who patronises the comic — is the straight man *who is funny*."

The cruelty becomes more overtly sadistic in situation comedy: here any buddy-buddy element goes out of the window, and a host of potential victims presents itself. In both *Fawlty Towers* and *Blackadder* a bully figure is used as a vent for the expression of all manner of prejudices and resentments that would horrify us in real life.

Edmund Blackadder was a footling and unamusing creation before Ben Elton came to Rowan Atkinson's rescue and transformed the character into a cynical, misanthropic mouthpiece for his own class hangups. The vicarious pleasure we take in Atkinson's withering humiliation of his upper-class-twit victims (Hugh Laurie, Tim McInnerny) perhaps demonstrates the extent to which Blackadder is a projection of the person many viewers would like to be: someone so shrewd and contemptuous that he is outside the class system altogether.

Despite the constant physical abuse meted out to the lowly Baldrick, Tony Robinson's character actually retains more dignity than those portrayed by Laurie and McInnerny. In this sense he is similar to Fawlty's principal victim, the hapless waiter Manuel.

Elton's reinvention of Blackadder parallels Eddie Braben's reinvention of the Eric Morecambe persona as someone, in Eric's words, "tougher, less gormless, harder towards Ern". Elton recently spoke of his admiration for Braben and Morecambe. Basil Fawlty is a different case. Although as much a product of John Cleese's class observations as Blackadder Mark II is of Elton's, for the viewer Basil is both a channel of release and a comic butt. Encountered in real life this gangling, brilliantined monster would appal us; safely contained within our television sets his outrageous bigotry and snobbery function as gleeful transgression. We go to the theatre, said Sartre, because in social life we are obliged to suppress derisive laughter.

The funniest bullies are those who get some measure of come-uppance from their victims

In current situation comedy, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran's Alan B'Stard carries the Blackadder figure of the amoral sadist to an extreme that, in the most recent series of *The New Statesman*, was no longer even funny. Indeed Michael Troughton, who plays B'Stard's principal victim — the cringing Piers Fletcher-Dervish — told the *News of the World* last month how "each mock blow during filming brings back painful memories" of being bullied at school.

It would seem that the funniest bullies are those, like Basil Fawlty and Jackie Gleason's Ralph Kramden, who get some measure of come-uppance from their victims (or at least have some redeeming lunacy about them).

Amoral sadist and his cringing victim: Rik Mayall (left) as Alan B'Stard in Yorkshire Television's series *The New Statesman*, with Michael Troughton as Piers Fletcher-Dervish, whom he bullies

Stand-up comedy is different, since it is more of a solipsistic, stream-of-consciousness tirade (see, for instance, Robin Williams or Ben Elton as performer) and does not involve explicit enactments of dominance and submission. What tends to happen, however, is that the stand-up comic uses his or her audience as the victim or straight man.

From Edna Everage to Julian Clary — or from Jewish masters such as Jackie Mason to Jewish bigots such as Andrew Dice Clay — stand-up comics have abused their audiences and seen their abuse gratefully lapped up. Only the advent of "wacky" nerds such as Emo Phillips and polite subversives such as Rita Rudner — together perhaps with the revival of the cult of Frankie Howerd — suggests that anybody is getting tired of stand-up sadism.

Bergson saw comedy as a device for protecting mankind from rigidity. But perhaps it is more than that. Perhaps we laugh at — or laugh with — *Blackadder* and French and Saunders because they make it possible for us to identify simultaneously with the bully and his victim.

Perhaps we experience a schizoid split between two selves, one aggressive and punishing, the other passive and innocently childlike. We can at last laugh safely at the bullying authority figures who terrified us as children, but we can also experience the joys of doing unto others what was done unto us.

As Bernard Mandeville wrote in the 18th century, when we laugh at pain or catastrophe, "our pity and malice shake us alternately". This in itself may be a therapeutic release that, temporarily at least, forestalls the need to bully others in reality.

Whether comedy is as therapeutic for the comedian is debatable: the long succession of tragic clowns who have so dominated 20th-century comedy would persuade us otherwise. But it is impossible to watch certain currently popular comics at work and not feel that at some level they are working out the psychodramas of their lives.

"Laughter," Bergson concluded in *Le Rire*, "cannot be absolutely just. Nor should it be kind-hearted either. [It arises from] a spark of spitefulness or, at all events, mischief . . . here, as elsewhere, nature has utilised evil with a view to good." That's comic relief for you.

TELEVISION

Out of closets and out of caves

In the public mind, black gays and lesbians are forever linked with the decline and fall of the Greater London Council. In the last days of County Hall, the idea somehow got about that great heaving mounds of dosh awaited any black lesbian canny enough simply to pop her head around the door and utter the word "workshop". Thus, by the supreme irony that accompanies any kind of positive discrimination, the people who were actually oppressed came to be regarded as the scandalously over-privileged.

Last night's **The Black Bag** (Channel 4) was about what it actually means to be black and gay in Britain, and it turns out to be no joke. Within the black community, it seems, homosexuality is barely tolerated. It is regarded as an offence against everything: racial pride, religious principles, and family solidarity.

Black gays are an impossibility, said one boy, because they are a contradiction in terms: being gay is a weakness, while blacks are strong. "God created Adam and Eve," shouted a frothing evangelist preacher, "not Adam and Steve."

The uncomfortable implication of all this was that blanket intolerance is not an attitude wholly restricted to white racists. When the footballer Justin Fashanu broke the news that he was gay, a columnist in the black newspaper *The Voice* denounced him for throwing away his duty as a positive role model for children.

This was all very depressing. The idea of *The Black Bag* is to go beyond the usual "positive" images of blacks on television. This one certainly did the trick.

If all the positive images had been removed from last night's *Survival Special* (ITV from Anglia), on the other hand, the viewer would have been left staring at his own reflection in the blank screen. Titled **The Secret World of Bats**, the not-so-hidden agenda of this film was to prove that bats, far from being just nasty squeaky things that flap in the faces of dishevelled women in churchyards, are actually the all-round good-guys of the natural world. They disperse seeds and pollen; they eat insects; and their very droppings are of inestimable value for bacteriological research.

Such relentless affirmative claims, it must be said, ultimately started to wear a bit thin. But this film certainly paved the way for other kinds of positive discrimination: cuddly bat toys for the kiddies, that kind of thing.

Perhaps the next step is for a family of bats to be written into *EastEnders*. They could swoop unthreateningly across the square at twilight, watched in gob-smacked admiration by the Fowlers and the Beales.

LYNNE TRUSS

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BRIEFING

Rocking rector

DONNIE Munro, the lead singer of the Scottish rock band, Runrig, has been elected rector of Edinburgh University, replacing the ubiquitous media personality Muriel Gray. Munro faced stiff competition from Scotland's best-known art impresario, Richard Demarco, who was running for the office for the fifth time. The position is traditionally a high-profile one in Edinburgh. Previous incumbents have included J.M. Barrie, Malcolm Muggeridge and Gordon Brown, the MP.

Frock funds

SADLER'S Wells Theatre is finding ever more ingenious ways of funding visits by foreign companies; the visit of the Paul Taylor Dance Company from America this December is going to be largely thanks to a fund-raising fashion show in a top New York hotel tomorrow. Sadler's Wells has arranged for Marc Bohan's collection for Hartnell to be presented at an exclusive showing in the presence of Princess Margaret in New York, where Sadler's Wells Association Inc., the charity which raises funds to bring American dance companies to Britain, is based. The Paul Taylor company last visited the Wells in 1989, after an absence of 16 years.

Last chance...

THE Royal Ballet's stylish senior ballerina, Lesley Collier, dances Nikiya tonight in the last performance this season at Covent Garden (071-240 1066) of Natalia Makarova's spectacular although not very dramatic production of *La Bayadère*. Collier has one of the company's brightest young hopes, Stuart Cassidy, as her admirer Solor, and Nicola Tranah forcefully commanding as her rival, Gamzatti. After this the company goes off to Washington.

EXHIBITION

To the glory of God, thanks to Wren

St Paul's Cathedral is the natural focus for a show celebrating the work of Sir Christopher Wren, previewed by John Russell Taylor

Wren was by any standards a prolific architect. He would probably not have wished the larger part of the City to be burnt down in the Great Fire, but it gave him a wonderful opportunity to exercise his art: even though, as tends to be the way at such moments, his grand plans for turning London into a baroque metropolis full of piazzas, circuses and vistas went by the board in piecemeal redevelopment.

The one area where he must have reacted in unalloyed relief to the fire was St Paul's. As architect in charge of the ramshackle Old St Paul's, he had by 1666 already been trying to cope with the building's problems for five years. It was not easy. Though the old building was said to be much loved, it had become something of a slum, littered with traders and other undesirable secular occupants. The fabric was not in good condition, and Wren's first solutions were to take the cue of Inigo Jones's classical colonnade, incongruously stuck on the front of the mouldering gothic pile, and classicise the whole thing, with a spindly new dome over the crossing in place of the existing spire.

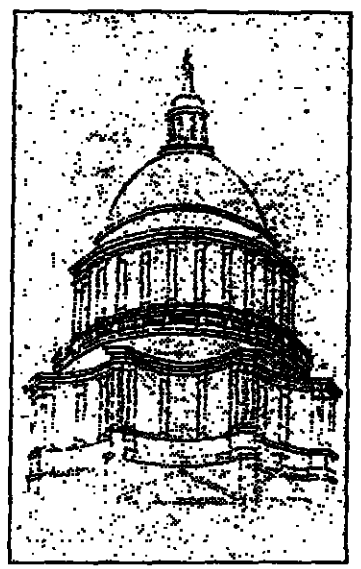
From what may be seen of it in the Royal Academy's new show, **Sir Christopher Wren and the Making of St Paul's**, this seems unlikely to have been a very satisfactory solution. The mind boggles at what 19th-century Gothic revivalists would have had to say about Wren for carrying out any such iconoclastic scheme. But the Great Fire, luckily for architecture, gave him a clean sweep.

There was no argument that the remains of the old building were too tottery to be patched any more, and the decision was rapidly taken to raze them to the ground and start again. In 1669, Wren was appointed Surveyor of His Majesty's Works, which made him the obvious person to design the new cathedral, and by the next year he had completed the first model of his new design, at this time a long, galleried church with a small dome at the west end.

Nobody seems to have been very satisfied with this, and by 1672 Wren had completed his Greek Cross design, centred symmetrically on a large dome. Subsequent critics have often felt that this was the finest of all his designs, but it seems to have been regarded as a litle too radical in terms of the Church of England, its liturgy and conventions.

The following year, Wren took account of such criticisms by extending the design westward to give the semblance of a nave. And to reinforce the effect of the new version, he had the so-called Great Model made. This is normally on view in the crypt of St Paul's, but there it remains one of the great unseen sights of London.

It therefore makes a fitting centrepiece to the Royal Academy show, coming as a novelty to the vast majority of visitors. It has even been specially restored for the occasion, and re-measured, proving to be at least 20 feet long instead of the traditional 18.



Working drawing by Wren: "Elevation of dome on a concave octagonal podium"

The sheer scale of the model is overwhelming. The pity is that it is obviously impractical for visitors to crawl underneath and look up inside the great wooden structure, for the detailing is as astonishing inside as out. But it remains, even to a superficial view, a great piece of baroque woodwork in its own right, as well as preserving vividly an earlier stage in the evolution of the finished design to which the world is accustomed.

Arguably, the proportions of this version, with its wider-based dome (closer to St Peter's than the final form) are more satisfactory than they are in the cathedral as built. But it is exciting to have the chance readily at hand to compare the two versions.

Once the design was agreed upon (more or less) work proceeded still in a manner more stately than urgent. The Warrant for building was finally sealed in 1675, and though foundations began to be laid, the remains of Inigo Jones's portico were not demolished until 1687, and the building was not officially finished until 1711.

This means that St Paul's had been Wren's major preoccupation for some 40 years: years of constant creative thinking and rethinking, and latterly of some bitterness, with half of Wren's salary withheld until completion.

Even after Wren had withdrawn from the construction the Commissioners continued to tinker with the design, and in 1717 a balustrade was added, much against Wren's wishes. Though his epitaph, when he was buried in the crypt, "If you seek his monument, look around you", was correct enough, it must have carried a few ironic overtones.

Apart from its major prize of the Great Model (and a few other model fragments), the present show, sponsored by Reed International and Paternoster Associates, chronicles exhaustively the history of St Paul's under the aegis of Wren. The 350th anniversary Wren show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1982 exhibited for the first time many of the related drawings by Wren himself and his office, as well as by notable pupils and assistants such as Hawksmoor, which had only just been rediscovered. But there St Paul's was seen in the wider context of Wren's career as a whole. Here the focus narrows to just the one masterpiece.

The masterpiece, however, is towering enough to deserve a whole show to itself. With almost all the relevant documents, from the model down to the tiniest scribbles, gathered together in one place, it is hard to imagine how it could be better done.

Sir Christopher Wren and the Making of St Paul's. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438) Opening on Friday, daily 10-6, until May 12. Admission £3 (£2 for concessions and special rates for prebooked parties).

The Royal Society's portrait of Wren, with St Paul's Cathedral on the left, by Johann B. Closterman

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OPERA

La fanciulla del West
New, Cardiff

PERHAPS it is just a historical misfortune that Puccini's Western has been smothered by so many other stories of swing-door saloon bars, girls of whipcrack independence, reformed bandits and cynical sheriffs: in 1910, before the gold rush of movies, comic books and musicals arrived, Puccini was a lone prospector in this territory. *La fanciulla del West* therefore exists in a state of narrative innocence which is at odds with the blood and colour of the music (one can imagine a Debussy Western having survived the onslaught far more successfully). There is also the problem that the intervening decades have taught us what the West sounds like: it sounds like Copland, and Puccini's tentative and occasional use of cowboy and Indian material re-emphasises a mismatch of subject and style, one that becomes particularly acute when the music turns exotically pentatonic. Where pentatony works in *La Bohème* as a symbol of the naïve, here one keeps expecting Prince Yamadori to come on.

The ironies of the work are not addressed in Petrika Ionesco's new production for Welsh National Opera. Instead the sets, Ionesco's own, offer strongly three-dimensional simulations of the bar, the spartan room and the mine shaft, looking like witless, stagy copies of locations familiar from so many film treatments. Marie Louise Walek dresses the cast so that they could immediately be enveloped into the frames of *High Noon*, and so the visual second-handness of the production is complete. The handling of the tricky scene for the two Indians is also insensitive.

Happily this is a far more successful evening in musical terms, thanks in equal measure to gutsy, totally secure performances from Suzanne Murphy as Minnie and from the orchestra under Julian Smith, adding another to his roster of outstanding Puccini performances. Murphy seems to throw her voice into the high register as carelessly as if she were laughing: there is no strain, no nurturing, no preparation, and the resulting sound, often with the least possible vibrato to get in the way of a natural perfection, conveys Minnie's strength of spirit and her utter candour, her determination and her vulnerability. Her stage presence — at once upright and slinky, like a deer — is in the same key.

DONALD COOPER

Strength of spirit: Suzanne Murphy with Dennis O'Neill

Dennis O'Neill as Dick Johnson does not look so unworriedly in character, nor does he sing with the same freedom, though the voice is lusty enough to make one wish there were more to the role. Donald Maxwell takes a forceful hold on the part of Jack Rance, acting with power and singing with a rasping relish, even if the effect is to reinforce how much the character is a rerun of Scarpia. Among the others, Mark Holland provides a noble-voiced Sonora, and the men of the chorus make a good, alert showing.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

THEATRE

The Big Love
New York

ALL got up to look forty-something, Tracey Ullman imitates her 17-year-old daughter's nightclub act. Talking her way through "Let a Smile be Your Umbrella," she lets an imaginary shoulder strap fall, shows how the dancing goes, and wobbles to remind us that her character has an artificial foot. At once graceful, ludicrous and pathetic, the sequence is a flawlessly judged and executed star turn — just like the rest of Ullman's Broadway debut at the Plymouth Theatre on Broadway.

The routine is vaguely reminiscent of "Rose's Turn", and Ullman's character is a distant relation of the monster-mother in *Gypsy*. Florence Aadland (Flo), the only character in *The Big Love*, tells us how she nurtured her daughter Beverly into a "young, blonde, intellectual Rita Hayworth". Beverly Aadland never made it in showbiz, however; she became notorious as Errol Flynn's 15-year-old last mistress.

In a lacquered, upswept blonde hairdo and salmon-coloured slacks, Flo tells us that she "won't stand for being called a bad mother". She claims that she did not learn for months that the 48-year-old Flynn raped the virginal Beverly, starting their two-year liaison. To her the story is "a preordained tragedy".

Who was the victim? This is the question that co-authors Jay Presson Allen *(The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Tru)* and Brooke Allen appear to be asking. Did Flo give Bev a figurative, if not literal, push into Flynn's bed and hitch their fortunes to a falling star? Or was her enjoyment of such perks as being stared at in Hollywood nightspots forgivably the "life's fulfilment" of a mother more ignorant than venal?

Vulgarity of the would-be genteel: Tracey Ullman (Flo)

Both, Ullman suggests, as Flo packs up belongings in a rundown Hollywood apartment on her way to serve 60 days in prison for failing to protect her underage daughter. Speaking as if she were chewing gum, punctuating with strangled laughs, Ullman talks with the confidence of the insensitive, the vulgarity of the would-be genteel. She is like a loquacious guest seen on an *Oprah Winfrey Show*.

Missing from the play is the context that an Oprah would provide, and which is needed. The Aadland story was shocking and sordid in the 1950s, when women were ivory pure or scarlet. Today the tale is not even titillating. Ullman, under Jay Presson Allen's direction, gives such an honest performance that Flo is neither terribly off-putting nor sympathetic.

The Big Love is notable mostly for Ullman's confirming the impression, created here by her beguiling Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew* at the New York Shakespeare Festival last summer, of an exceptional multi-media actress.

HOLLY HILL

ROCK

Freddie Jackson
Hammersmith Odeon

FREDDIE Jackson has lost the initiative in recent years, which is a great shame. In the mid-Eighties it looked as if he was poised to take over from older torchbearers of the boudoir-soul tradition such as Luther Vandross and Teddy Pendergrass, and for a while his stock was certainly more buoyant than that of Alexander O'Neal.

His failing has been in the recording studio, where he has become bogged down in a rut of syrupy overproduction. His latest album, *Do Me Again*, was a nondescript affair which sank without trace last autumn, and it was noticeable that during this 90-minute set he found space for no more than two of the numbers from it: "Don't It Feel Good" and the new single "Love Me Down".

Relying instead on the best-known material from his back catalogue, he seduced the audience with a bravura display of vocal technique, knockabout humour and an enthusiasm which proved infectious.

A rotund figure in a sequinned tuxedo, Jackson maintained a radiant disposition, his cherubic features beaming down like sunshine on the front rows. Deftly employing the theatrical skills which he learnt watching the great R 'n' B acts perform at the Apollo Theatre in his Harlem hometown, Jackson confided in the menfolk while flirting shamelessly with any woman who hove into view. There was no shortage of volunteers when he called for assistants to towel his fevered brow.

His backing musicians performed the mixture of smouldering ballads and controlled funk workouts with precision, gusto and keen attention to their leader's moves. An inherently graceful man despite his shape, Jackson appeared to put every fibre of his being into the performance, his hands and arms tracing the fluttery racing movements of his voice during "Have You Ever Loved Somebody".

His effortlessly accurate pitching and gorgeous tone were strikingly evident throughout, but for sheer power "I Don't Want to Lose Your Love" took some beating. Most impressive of the lot was "You are My Lady" where his rich, supple tenor dipped in and out of the falsetto register like a boat bobbing smoothly on the sea.

Clearly, if Jackson's remarkable talent is to achieve the grandstand prominence it deserves, he needs similarly strong new material with which to work in future. He might benefit, too, from a slightly wider variety of subject matter than songs like "Jam Tonight", "Tasty Love" and "Nice 'n' Slow" provide, no matter how much the innuendo appeals to his acute sense of mischief. But as a live performer the man has nothing left to prove.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THEATRE

Brezhnev's Children
ICA

A DEPRESSING cloud of good intentions hangs low over Olwen Wymark's new play, commissioned by Moving Target from a novel by Julia Voznesenskaya. Nothing is bad about good intentions, until they forget to turn themselves into good actions, or acts in the present case, whereupon the worthy motive is exposed as a misguided impulse, far better left to drown in the inkwell.

In the post-Brezhnev, pre-Gorbachev interregnum seven women who have just given birth in a Moscow maternity ward are thought to have caught some nameless infection. Quarantined for ten days, they while away the hours telling sad stories of their life with men; hence the novel's title, *The Women's Decameron*. On the page these tales were presumably not acted out in the space between the beds; on the stage, of course, they are, with supporting parts played by the doctor, nurse and orderly, female roles but acted by men in skirts.

This cross-dressing in Chattie Salaman's direction is neatly managed, as is the arrival of the babies at feeding time, wheeled in on a trolley, like rations of wrapped bread. But the little dramas, for all their bearing upon the wretched lot of women, come across as sketchy and thinly characterised. The women too, though one is a call girl, another a theatre director, a third thought to be an informer, are interchangeable when they speak. I drew a chart of the ward on my programme with arrows linking the characters to the beds; wasted effort, since it hardly mattered whether Irina or Nelya was saying, "We should stand up to the nurses," or was asked, "How can we?" or answered, "By acting together."

Will Albina (Bridget Davison) learn to love the baby she did not want? Is Valentina (Nella Marin) sneaking to Sister? Such questions ripple the surface of the play and leave no mark. If the outcome of Zina's love affair excites marginally more concern, this is because the genuinely Russian accent of Valentina Yakunina gives the character a factitious interest. These ramblings are frail stuff.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

AVALON (U): Engaging personal saga about immigrant experience and post-war breakup of family life, by *Rain Man* director Barry Levinson. Fine performances by Armin Mueller-Stahl, Joan Plowright.
Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

BUDDY'S SONG (12): Roger Daltrey as an ageing pop musician whose tedious marital problems are resolved through the musical talents of his son. Director, Claude Whatham.
Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

C'EST LA VIE (12): Evocative autobiographical recollection by French director Diane Kurys: a childhood seaside holiday soured by marital breakup. With Nathalie Baye.
Barbican (071-638 8891).

GREEN CARD (12): Marriage of convenience becomes unbearable when slobbish Gérard Depardieu moves in with uptight Andie MacDowell. Likeable New York romantic comedy; director, Peter Weir.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Oscar nominee Gérard Depardieu masterful as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transforms Rostand's play into magnificent, swashbuckling cinema.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Lumière (071-836 0691) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Renoir (071-837 8402).

DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner as the Civil War lieutenant sucked into the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut with aplomb. Nominated for 12 Oscars.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

DECEMBER BRIDE (PG): Irish tale of a strong-willed servant girl; bogged down by dour atmosphere, but enlivened by Saskia Reeves. Director, Thaddeus O'Sullivan.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

THE FIELD (12): Richard Harris in Thirties Ireland, fighting for his land. Grandly visualised, but windy drama; from the *My Left Foot* team.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

◆ THE GRIFTERS (18): Stephen Frears' disjointed version of Jim Thompson's con-artist thriller. John Cusack, Anjelica Huston, Annette Bening, stranded in a glossy limbo.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ KINDERGARTEN COP (12): Uptight cop (Arnold Schwarzenegger) becomes kindergarten teacher. Bland, cute comedy, awkwardly mixed with violent shoot-outs.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

MEET THE APPLEGATES (15): Insects in human form succumb to American vices. Lunatic satirical comedy from *Heathers* director Michael Lehmann. Ed Begley Jr, Stockard Channing.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies. Witty dialogue, elegant direction. With Edward Clements, Carolyn Farina.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Minema (071-235 4225) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

MILLER'S CROSSING (18): Prohibition gang warfare from the brothers Coen: brooding, labyrinthine, over-laden with words and smart artifice. Gabriel Byrne, Albert Finney.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Gate (071-727 4043).

MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG): Eloquent portrait of an upper middle-class American marriage, from Evan S. Connell's novels. Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman; director, James Ivory.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny assault on Germany's Nazi past, with Lena Stolze as the girl uncovering her home town's shady history.
Premiere (071-439 4470) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

◆ PACIFIC HEIGHTS (15): Evil tenant Michael Keaton makes life hell for landlords Matthew Modine and Melanie Griffith. Strenuous, implausible thriller; director, John Schlesinger.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Caustic Tinseltown comedy, with a few tears, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Meryl Streep as the drug-abused actress; Shirley MacLaine as her mother. Director, Mike Nichols.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (15): Oscar nominee Jeremy Irons as the inscrutable Claus von Bulow, tried for the attempted murder of his wife. Brilliant unravelling of a recent enigma; director, Barbet Schroeder.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ THE RUSSIA HOUSE (12): Serpentine spy games with Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer. Muted thriller from John Le Carré's novel; director, Fred Schepisi.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci. With John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Plaza (071-497 9999).

SHORT TIME (12): Dabney Coleman as a cop who believes he has a fatal illness. Ignore the sentiment and savour the black comedy. Director, Gregg Champion.
Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

TILAI (PG): Formidably beautiful African tale of love versus village traditions from Idrissa Ouedraogo, director of *Yaaba*.
Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

TO SLEEP WITH ANGER (12): Charles Burnett's magical tale of a surprise visitor (Danny Glover) bringing superstition and evil into a troubled Los Angeles family.
Metro (071-437 0757).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
▨ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

▨ ALL IN THE WRONG: Sam Walters' bright new theatre opens with an amiable 18th-century romp of sexual misunderstandings.
Orange Tree, 45 Kew Road, Richmond (081-940 3633). Underground/BR: Richmond. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Closes March 30.

☐ THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM: Muddled though intriguing 18th-century heroic tragedy as performed by 19th-century Thespians. London-Irish arts festival production.
The Irish Centre, Murray Street, NW1 (071-624 3158). Underground: Camden Town. Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm.

☐ CHILDREN OF EDEN: Genial musical jinks round Genesis, supplied by John Caird and Stephen Schwartz.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

▨ CROMWELL: Imaginative staging of Brendan Kennelly's poem sequence on Anglo-Irish violence. 80 minutes of dense, vivid imagery. London-Irish arts festival production.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Underground: Shepherds Bush. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Running time: 1hr 15mins. Closes March 16.

☐ DECEPTIONS: Revenge drama concerning a psychiatrist (Anna Carteret) and her young client. Fairly thin stuff.
King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Underground: Highbury & Islington. Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm. Running time: 2hrs. Closes March 17.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☐ 42ND STREET: Irresistible tap-dancing novice-to-star musical back in town to give everyone a tonic.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Closes April 20.

☐ A FREE COUNTRY: Jews hiding in a farmhouse in Vichy France: disappointingly low-key drama. Last week.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins.

▨ THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others seducing and seduced by Cherie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire and Koshiro Matsumoto IX in old-fashioned show, packed with a wealth of hit songs.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Underground: Angel. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. Closes March 30.

☐ PURGATORY IN INGOLSTADT: Violence and cruelty among school children in pre-Hitler Germany: superb production of Marieluise Fleisser's prescient 1924 play.
Gate, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Underground: Notting Hill Gate. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. In repertory with *Pioneers in Ingolstadt*.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE RISING OF THE MOON: Excellently-acted first play by James Doherty: survivors of a Glasgow-Irish childhood fight over their past.
Old Red Lion, 418 St John Street, EC1 (071-837 7816). Underground: Angel. Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs 5mins. Closes March 23.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening, sometimes inaudible rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

☐ THE ROUND TABLE: Christoph Hein's dour Arthurian parable of East German malaise in the late Eighties.
Lyric Studio, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Closes March 16.

■ SILLY COW: Ben Elton's awkward collection of one-liners, centred around Dawn French as a ghoulish tabloid journo sued for libel.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

☐ THE TRACKERS OF OXYRHYNCHUS: Revival of Tony Harrison's brilliant version of a Greek satyr play, intertwining modern and ancient themes of elitist art and cultural poverty.
National (Olivier), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm. Running time: 1hr 50mins.

☐ TWELFTH NIGHT: Peter Hall's autumnal production, stressing comedy and motive: with Eric Porter, Dinsdale Landen.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Underground: Embankment. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. Running time: 2hrs 40mins.

☐ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and bisexual junketing preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.40pm. Running time: 2hrs.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ☐ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ▨ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ▨ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Hidden Laughter: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . . . ▨ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ▨ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

LEAR: English National Opera revival of Aribert Reimann's opera composed in 1978, excellently restaged by Elke Gramss. Monte Jaffe gives a powerful portrayal of the King, with effective performances from the supporting cast. Phyllis Cannan (Goneril), Maria Moll (Regan), Jeffrey Lawton (Edmund), Rosa Mannion (Cordelia) and Richard Angas (Gloucester); confidently conducted by Opera North's music director, Paul Daniel.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN: Scottish Opera's touring repertoire includes the magical Pountney-Bjornson production of Janáček's animal morality play with Anne Dawson and Alan Opie in the leads; Elijah Moshinsky's production of *La Bohème* — conducted by the young Italian Marco Guidarini, and Stephen Wadsworth's new Beethoven-period production of *Fidelio*.
Alhambra Theatre, Morley Street, Bradford (0274 752000), 7.30pm.

STANLEY SPENCER: THE APOTHEOSIS OF LOVE: Stanley Spencer's mystical/erotic art leaves few people unmoved, whether to delight or distaste. In this centenary show he looks more than ever like the greatest British artist this century.
Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 9023), 10am-6.45pm, until April 1.

VAN GOGH TO PICASSO: The Berggruen Collection contains 41 superb Picassos from all periods of his career, 14 Seurats and fine Cézannes, Van Goghs and Braques, all of which are on long-term loan to the National Gallery. First shown all together then after April dispersed among the Gallery's own collection for at least five years.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-839 3321), 10am-6pm, until April 21.

SONG RECITAL: The excellent French Song Recital series continues with soprano Sarah Leonard and mezzo-soprano Anne-Marie Owens performing works by Debussy and Poulenc, accompanied by pianist Malcolm Martineau.
St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (071-222 1061), 7.30pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC: Norman Del Mar conducts Sibelius's Symphony No 5 and Brahms's *Tragic Overture*, with Robert Cohen performing in Dvořák's Cello Concerto.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SO: David Atherton conducts Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola (with soloists Peter Thomas and Christopher Yates) followed by Shostakovich's Eighth.
Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham (0242 523690), 7.30pm.

KEN PEPLOWSKI: A dark horse among the new American reeds players. Exuberant Goodman swing and hard-edged Sonny Stitt bop both find a place in his clarinet-saxophone repertoire. (On Saturday he performs at the Farmers' Club, Cambridge.)
Piper Club, Newland Avenue, Hull (0482 43012), 9pm.

LA BAYADERE: Last performance this season of Petipa's exotic ballet with Lesley Collier and Stuart Cassidy in the leads.
Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

FREDDIE HUBBARD: The hard-bop trumpeter and Miles Davis sideman ends his residency tonight.
Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, London NW1 (071-284 4358), 9pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

PORCINOLOGIST
(a) A student of pigs, from the Latin *porcinus* relating to pigs: "Mary's large collection of piggy-things, totalling over 500, includes piggy-banks, jugs, toys, mugs, biscuit barrels, postcards and soap dishes."

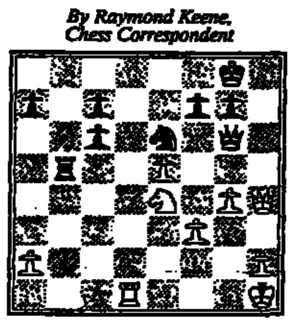
PESADE
(b) A dressage manoeuvre in which a horse rears up on its hindlegs without forward movement, from the Italian *posata* pause, resting: "Wherein the horse rises with his fore feet, and bends them up to his body, without stirring the hind feet."

CHOWRY
(b) A yak tail waved to keep away flies, from the Hindi *Cauri*: "A black female slave, richly dressed, stood behind him with a chowry, or cow's tail, having a silver handle, which she used to keep off the flies."

MADAROSIS
(b) Loss of hair, esp. of the eyebrows or eyelashes, from the Greek *madaein* to fall off: "Nor can we/Shut our eyes despite their madarosis of the sun."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Today's position is from the game Gasanov — Arkelov, Baku 1960. Here White has a long forcing combination resulting ultimately in checkmate. Can you see it? Solution tomorrow.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1Ra8+! Nxa8 2 Kc8! Nc7 3 Kxc7 and White wins, eg 3 ... Ka8 4 Kxb6 Kb8 5 Ka6 Ka8 6 b6 and the pawn will promote.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

ROY MILES GALLERY
29, Bruton St W1 071 495 4747
BRITISH MONTH
30 Works on View
Mon-Fri 10-6. Sats 10-1.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc 1st Call 071 240 7200 (24hr / 7 day) 071 379 4444
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 7.30 LEAR Tomor 7.30 TURN OF THE SCREW

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (24hrs/no bkg fee) 071 836 3464
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066 / 1911. Standby info 836 6903.S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Tomor 7.00 Die Zauberflote
THE ROYAL BALLET
Ton't 7.30 La Bayadere

THEATRES

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SHAFTESBURY 071-379 5399 cc 071-379 4444/071-793 1000 (no bkg fee) 071-497 9977 (Bkg Fee)
Groups 071-930 6123
Nominated Olivier Award
COMEDY OF THE YEAR
DONALD SINDEN
MICHAEL WILLIAMS in
RAY COONEY'S
"HUGELY FUNNY" (D.Tel)
OUT OF ORDER
"A TRIUMPH" (F.Times)
8.00 nightly Sats 5.30 & 8.30
Wed mat 2.30
LAST 2 WEEKS OF SHAFTESBURY SEASON

SHAFTESBURY cc 071-379 5399 cc (no bkg fee) 071-379 4444 /497 9977/793 1000
Group Sales 071 930 6123
PETER O'TOOLE
in "THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR" E. Std
JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL
by Keith Waterhouse
directed by Ned Sherrin
Eves 8.30pm, Sat 5 & 8.30pm
FROM 20 MAR LIMITED SEASON 10 WEEKS ONLY!

STRAND BO & CC 071 240 0300 CC (Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977/071 379 4444/071 793 1000
DAVE ALLEN
"A phenomenon devoutly to be cherished" S.Express
Season extended to 4 May
Monday - Saturday 8pm

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071 836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 (no fee) & 24 hr cc 836 2428 / 379 4444 (bkg fee) Mon-Fri Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.30
MARIAN GORDON
PETER SARKWORTH
KEVIN McNALLY in
HIDDEN LAUGHTER
"SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph
LAST 3 WEEKS ENDS MARCH 23

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071-836 9987 CC (No fee) 793 1000/(24 hr/bkg/fee) 836 2428/379 4444
KIT & THE WIDOW
Lavishly Mounted !
From March 25 for 3 weeks only.
Mon-Thu 8pm.
Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.40

WYNDHAMS 071 867 1116 CC 071 379 4444/793 1000 (No Fee) & 24hr CC 836 2428 (Bkg Fee)
SHEILA GISH CLIVE FRANCIS
JOSEPH MAHER in
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW
by JOE ORTON
"RIOTOUSLY FUNNY" D Tel
Eves 8.00 Fri & Sats 6.00 & 8.40

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 4444/240 7200
071-793 1000 (bkg fee)
Groups 071 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
"SHEER UNADULTERATED FUN..."
I LOVE THIS SHOW" Sun Exp.
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30, ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF
2nd SENSATIONAL YEAR
NOW BOOKING TO SEPTEMBER 28

WHITEHALL BO & cc (no fee) 867 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
ACHINGLY FUNNY Tms
ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR
"leaves the viewer weak with laughter and admiration" D Tel
"I CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD" Today
Eves 8 Mats Thurs 3 Sat at 4.30
LAST 2 WEEKS !!

WHITEHALL 867 1119 cc 867 1111 379 4444 (with bkg fee)
Previews from March 27
Opens April 3 at 7.00
LESLIE GRANTHAM IN
RICK'S BAR CASABLANCA
the original play by
Murray Burnett and Joan Alison
Evgs 8.00, Sats 6.00 & 8.45
Mats Thurs 3.00

CINEMAS

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Avenue W1 071 439 4805. Richard Harris John Hurt Tom Berenger in THE FIELD (12) Progs at 1.30 (not Sun) 3.50 6.10 8.30

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 071 465 8865 Paul Newman Joanne Woodward in Merchant Ivory's MR AND MRS BRIDGE (PG) Progs at 1.00 (not Sun) 3.30 6.00 8.40

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 Elizabeth Perkins Joan Plowright in Barry Levinson's AVALON (U) Progs at 12.30 (not Sun) 3.05 5.40 8.15

[illegible]

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on drinking at work 9.55 Regional news and weather
10.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.30 Dish of the Day served by Rosemary Moon 10.40 Going for Gold (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 People Today. Includes a phone-in on problem relationships
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Happy Memories. Cliff Michelmore and Wendy Gibson rekindle some more viewers' memories using music and archive film 12.20 Scene Today with Debi Jones and Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold
2.15 Knots Landing. Drama and intrigue with the rich residents of a Californian cul-de-sac 3.05 King and Company. Simon King is joined on his wildlife photography trail by actor Mark McManus, who watches barn owls as they hunt, and by a schoolgirl hoping to see roe deer grazing (r) 3.40 Cartoon
3.50 Bodger and Badger. Episode nine of the 12-part children's comedy series set in a school 4.05 Jimbo and the Jet Set (r) 4.10 Jackanory. Penelope Wilton reads part three of Mrs Henry de la Pasture's *The Unlucky Family* 4.25 The Chipmunks 4.35 Potsworth and Co
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Dodgem. Episode three of the six-part children's drama serial. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Wales (6.55): Party Political Broadcast (Plaid Cymru); Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan. The guests are Andrew Lloyd Webber and his wife Madeleine, Bobby Davro, author Jack Higgins and, with a song, Fergal Sharkey
7.40 Doogie Howser MD. American comedy drama series about a teenage doctor starring Neil Patrick Harris. (Ceefax)
8.05 Over My Dead Body. A sort of *Murder He Wrote*, with Edward Woodward as a San Francisco-based mystery writer who is persuaded each week to help journalist Nicki (Jessica Lundy) solve a crime.
8.50 Points of View. With Anne Robinson
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather

Sounding off with Beethoven's help: Dr John Pond (9.30pm)

9.30 QED: The Power of Sound.

● CHOICE: Dr John Pond, who lectured in physics at Southampton university before inheriting the family farm, offers a lively demonstration of the often unappreciated properties and applications of sound. The scientific explanations may be a trifle daunting to the uninitiated but Pond's examples belong very much to the everyday world. He proceeds from cracking a wine glass and tearing through a metal plate to the more constructive use of sound in welding plastics, tackling smoke pollution and helping cancer therapy. Along the way he engages the help of Beethoven to show that there is no essential difference between the sound that welded plastics and devoured metal and the music of the Moonlight Sonata. He even manages to make a Beethoven recording by transmitting the sound through a stick of wood. (Ceefax)

10.00 Sportsnight introduced by Steve Rider. Boxing: live coverage of the heavyweight contest at Wembley between Gary Mason and Lennox Lewis, both British and undefeated. Plus highlights of the 20-year-old battle between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier; Motor Racing: a preview of this year's Formula 1 racing season that begins this weekend in Phoenix, Arizona; and Football: tonight's results and a look forward to the weekend's FA Cup sixth round
11.30 Film: Ooh . . . You Are Awful (1972). Awful is the word for this vehicle for comedian Dick Emery, who was very popular on television but did not make a successful transition to film. A swindler tries to con a rich Italian woman out of £500,000 by pretending to arrange a marriage between her son and the Princess Royal. Directed by Cliff Owen. Northern Ireland: Film 91 12.10am-12.25 The Barry Awards for Comic Relief
1.05am Weather

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Social Sciences. The UK — Continuity and Change. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster A round-up of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 Daytime on Two: Teaching today 9.30 Adventures in maths for seven to nine-year-olds 9.45 Science for five and six-year-olds 10.00 You and me 10.15 Science in a spin 10.40 Out and about in Scotland 11.00 Learning to read 11.15 English 11.35 Teaching today 12.10 Science in action 12.30 Living in a divided society 12.55 Maths help for adults 1.20 Pie in the Sky 1.40 Zig Zag
2.00 News and weather followed by You And Me (r)
2.15 Canvas. An appreciation of *And When Did You Last See Your Father* by W.F. Yeames (r) 2.35 Country File investigates the future of Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland, under threat from various interest groups in the area (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. The game for wordsmiths, hosted by Paul Cola.
4.30 Fighting Talk. Dr Sheila Cassidy runs the St. Luke's hospice in Plymouth but in 1975 she made headline news when she was arrested and tortured in Chile for the crime of treating a wounded revolutionary. Anne Kelleher talks to her about the experience, how it has affected her and how it has clarified her religious beliefs. They also discuss her fierce and absolute opposition to euthanasia
5.00 News followed by Miniature Worlds: A Load of Rubbish. The wildlife attracted to a rubbish tip (r)
5.10 Horizon: Playing at Noah. A report on the plan of conservationist Dr Ulysses S. Seal to save rare animals from extinction through the creation of what he calls a "technological ark" of species (r)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. A bizarre malfunction has caused a shuttlecraft carrying Counsellor Troi to crash on to planet Varga 2. Unfortunately for her, the planet is populated solely by an evil being whose greatest pleasure in life is to make humans suffer. (Ceefax)
6.50 DEF II begins with Reportage. An examination of the degrees to which personal rights are limited or infringed, from curbs on freedom of speech to confidential police computer files 7.40 Rapido. Antoine de Caunes with his snappy suit and exaggerated accent presents another edition of his popular international music show
8.10 Bookmark: Amis K — The Memoirs.

● CHOICE: Daisy Goodwin's film makes no bones about being timed to coincide with the Kingsley Amis autobiography but it is far from being a promotion for the book. Sir Kingsley, with Goodwin prompting him off camera, is naturally central but he is object as well as subject. Dividing the narrative with silent film titles ("Norbury boy", "School days", "Oxford bound"), Goodwin makes potent use of place, whether it is the family graveyard, the anonymous south London suburb in which Amis grew up or Swansea, where he lectured and wrote *Lucky Jim*. Amis is a willing and witty collaborator, offering a hilarious demonstration of Jim Dixon's "sex life in ancient Rome" face and showing enviable talent as a mimic, notably of his friend Philip Larkin. Taking her cue from Amis's assertion that every page of a novel says something about the writer, Goodwin enriches her portrait with shrewdly-chosen quotations

9.00 The Famous Teddy Z. Jon Cryer stars as young Hollywood agent Teddy Zakalokis in the American showbiz comedy
9.25 Antonia and Jane. Perceptive comedy by Marcy Kahan, beautifully acted by Imelda Staunton and Saskia Reeves as schoolfriends who meet each year for a reunion dinner. It all appears very convivial, but beneath the chat and gossip lies a love-hate relationship that will not lie down and die. An interesting analysis of the motives, both hidden and apparent, that underlie friendships. The supporting cast includes Brenda Bruce and Alfred Marks and there are guest appearances from the unlikely pair of Claire Rayner and Michael Ignatieff. The director is Beeban Kidron of *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, which has been nominated for eight Bafta awards (r)
10.30 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow
11.15 The Late Show. Includes a profile of Julian Cope 11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Business 12.25am Social Sciences: Policy Capturing Models. Ends at 12.55

Portrait of a novelist's life and times: Sir Kingsley Amis (8.10pm)

ITV

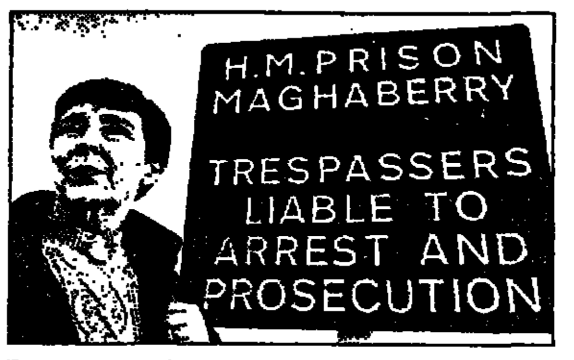
6.00 TV-am begins with Good Morning Britain presented by Maya Even and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. Includes main news on the hour and headlines on the half hour. After Nine, presented by Kathy Tayler, features microwave cooking hints and Dr Hilary Jones with medical advice
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Lennie Bennett hosts the quiz game show 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Mike Scott chairs a discussion with women who have lost babies. Is the counselling provided adequate?
10.40 This Morning. Magazine programme focusing on home and family matters. Presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. With national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news headlines at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.05 Allsorts. Children's programme 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice. Soap set in a rural Australian
2.20 Take the High Road. Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50 Give Us a Clue. Michael Parkinson hosts the celebrity charades show. Liza Goddard is joined by Rula Lenska, Millicent Martin and Anna Dawson, while on Lionel Blair's team are Kenny Everett, Frazer Hines and Michael Winner
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian medical drama

Dogged by a canine co-star: Christopher Biggins (3.55pm)

3.55 Woof! Adventures of a young man who turns into a dog at unexpected times. (Oracle) 4.25 Garfield and Friends. Comic capers with the cartoon cat
5.00 Home and Away (r)
5.30 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Counselling advice for teenagers adjusting to the emotional demands of adulthood
6.00 Blockbusters. Quiz game for teenagers hosted by Bob Holness
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 This Is Your Life. Another unsuspecting worthy is confronted by Michael Aspel and his big red book and taken for an unsolicited trip down memory lane
7.30 Coronation Street. Another slice of television life with the residents of Britain's most famous street. (Oracle)
8.00 The Match. Inspector Morse has to make way this week for live coverage of the game at Old Trafford between Manchester United and the French team Montpellier in the European cup winners' cup quarter-final, first leg. Introduced by Elton Welsby with commentary by Brian Moore
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 Film: The Anderson Tapes (1971). Polished crime thriller with Sean Connery as an ex-con who forms a gang to burgle an entire Fifth Avenue building, unaware that his conversations with the Mafia about funding are being taped by (among others) the police. The strong supporting cast includes Martin Balsam, Dyan Cannon and Christopher Walken. Directed by Sidney Lumet
12.30am Film: Gregory's Girl (1980). Beanpole John Gordon Sinclair in hilarious form playing the Scottish teenager Gregory, who is slowly and awkwardly becoming aware of the opposite sex. There is a lovely supporting performance by Dee Hepburn as the schoolgirl soccer star who becomes the focus of Gregory's passion. Directed in his quirky comic style by Bill Forsyth, who went on to make *Local Hero*
2.15 Videofashion. A look at the international models who grace magazine covers around the world
2.40 America's Top Ten
3.10 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz competition hosted by Martin Roberts
3.40 The Channon & Ball Video Show. Mick Channon and Alan Ball look back fondly at football moments
4.40 Fifty Years On. Newsreels from 1941
5.00 Nashville Swing. Country music show. The guest is Don Everly (r)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 News summary
12.05 Parliament Programme. Sue Cameron with a round up of business in both Houses
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining education series for pre-school children
2.00 Film: Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe (1945) Betty Grable stars in lush romantic musical as a showgirl who is given a mink coat in exchange for persuading her boss's son (Dick Haymes) to fall in love with her. Problems arise when she finds herself really falling in love. The cast includes Margaret Dumont, taking a break from the Marx brothers, and Phil Silvers. Directed by George Seaton
4.00 Not Pots: The Basketmakers — Beyond Therapy. Profiles of two contrasting basketmakers — one who makes traditional designs, the other who utilises rubbish and sells her work to art galleries around the world (r). (Teletext)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts the words and numbers game
5.00 The Adventures Of TinTin. Episode 15 of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah nearly causes a fist-fight between members of her panel and the studio audience when she asks them the question "Why do men favour pretty women?".
6.00 The Wonder Years. Emmy award-winning comedy series about growing up in Sixties America (r)
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests are model Marie Helvin and Jimmy Nail, co-creator, writer and star of the BBC drama series *Spender*
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Conservative party politician Followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. More from the residents of the Merseyside cul-de-sac. (Teletext)
8.30 Dispatches. A report from Tibet on the extent of the carnage caused by Chinese repression. With eyewitness verification of stories of brutality and torture by the Chinese authorities since 1989
9.15 Short and Curlies: Making Waves. A young man joins a group of retired ladies for a trip to the seaside in this short film with a twist. Starring Sheila Hancock and Kenneth Cranham (r). (Teletext)



To the defence of the Armagh four: Margaret Bell (9.30pm)

9.30 Free for All.

● CHOICE: Channel 4's new viewer access series offers a platform to Margaret Bell, whose son and three other young soldiers are serving life sentences for the sectarian killing of a Catholic man in Northern Ireland. The case of the Armagh four has clear parallels with those of the Guildford four and the Birmingham six, in that the convictions were largely secured on confessions made in police custody. The other common factor is that the men have consistently protested their innocence. The difference is that Protestants, and not Catholics, are questioning the fairness of British justice. The four accused were members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and had a central role in a system that their community had traditionally upheld. Now they and their families find themselves crossing the ideological divide to sympathise with the supposed bombers of Guildford and Birmingham

10.00 The Golden Girls. Another showing for the first series of the hit American comedy series about four women of mature years who share a Miami house (r)
10.30 Vic Reeves Big Night Out. Comedy series
11.00 The Very Bits of Absolutely. Highlights of the comedy revue, including what fish really say to each other and the world's most unusual disease.
11.35 Sid Caesar's Show of Shows (b/w). Classic American comedy series
12.05am Channel 4 News — Midnight Special with Nicholas Owen Ends at 2.00

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.25-7.00 News 12.40am Sid Tips 1.10 Quiz Night 1.40 Film: Blind Terror 3.20 Raw Power 4.20 Fifty Years On 4.40 Farming Diary 5.05-5.30 Nashville Story

BORDER

As London except: 1.50pm Give Us A Clue 2.20-3.55 Scottish Question Time 6.00 Lookaround Wednesday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.40am Jake and the Fatman 1.30 Donahue 2.30 Video View 3.00 Film: Double Dare 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 Central News 12.40am Film: Dracula Has Risen From the Grave 2.25 SFX 3.20 Donahue 4.15 Pick of the Week 4.45 Jobs

CHANNEL

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Channel Report 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.40 Film: The Haunted Palace 2.20 Donahue 3.15 Night Heat 4.10 Extra Dimensions 5.00-5.30 America's Top Ten

GRANADA

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 12.30am Jake and the Fatman 1.20 Donahue 2.15 Video View 2.45 Film: Double Dare 4.45-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.40am Championship Boxing 1.30 Friday the 13th 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 Schimanski 4.30 An Invitation to Remember: Michael Denison and Dulcie Gray 4.55-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six

SCOTTISH

As London except: 1.50pm Give us a Clue 2.20-3.55 Scottish Question Time 6.00 Scotland Today 6.30-7.00 Jimmy's 8.00-10.00 Film: Family Reunion 10.45 Matlock 11.45 Ski with Klammer 12.05am Scottish Question Time 1.15 Donahue 2.15 Florence 3.15 Film: Blanc de Chine 4.50 Weir's Way 5.20-5.50 Jobfinder

TSW

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Farmhouse Kitchen 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.00-5.30 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.45am Jake and the Fatman 1.35 Donahue 2.30 Video View 3.00 Film: Double Dare 5.00-5.30 TSW Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.40am Film: The Haunted Palace 2.20 Donahue 3.15 Night Heat 4.10 Extra Dimensions 5.00-5.30 America's Top Ten

TYNE TEES

As London except: 6.00pm Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Ark on the Move 12.40 Jake and the Fatman 1.35 Donahue 2.30 Video View 2.55 Film: Double Dare 4.55-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Who's The Boss? 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.40 Jake and the Fatman 1.30 Donahue 2.30 Video View 3.00 Film: Double Dare 5.00-5.30 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 6.00pm Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.40am Dirty Dancing 2.05 Quiz Night 2.35 How Was It For You? 3.05 Comedy Tonight 3.30 Music Box 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Ysgolion 12.00 Sbectol 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Vintage 2.30 In the Footsteps of Ambedkar 3.30 Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.15 Heno 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Hel Straeon 7.30 Ar Y Tir 8.00 Nature Watch 8.30 Darllediad Gwleidyddol Ar Ran Plaid Cymru 8.35 Newyddion 9.05 Sbectrwm 9.35 Now You're Talking 10.00 Film: And Now For Something Completely Different 11.35 Sid Caesar's Show of Shows" 12.05 C4 News

RTE 1

Starts: 12.15pm Dail Report 12.30 Check Up 1.00 News 1.35 Blizzard's Wizard Woodwork 2.05 Sam 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Quinescopics 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 7.00 No 1 7.35 MacGyver 8.30 Look Here 9.00 News 9.30 Bibi 10.30 Wednesday Report: Is Ireland Racist? 11.05 Bergerac 12.05am News 12.15 Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.05 Cursai 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00 News 8.05 This Is Your Life 8.35 Who's The Boss? 9.00 Cheers 9.30 News followed by The Godfather Family: A Look Inside 10.25 Nighthawks 11.05 News 11.25 Dail Report

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.50 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 Here's Lucy 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.20 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Punky Brewster 5.30 McHale's Navy 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Anything for Money 8.00 "V" 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Hitchhiker 11.00 Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer 12.00 Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
5.00am Newswatch 6.00 Sunrise 9.00 Daytime 9.30 Newsline 10.00 Daytime 10.30 Roving Reporter 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 Daytime 12.30pm NBC Today 1.30 NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Parliament Live 4.30 Roving Reporter 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Roving Report 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC News 12.30am CBS News 1.30 NBC News 2.30 CBS News 3.30 NBC News 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 And the Children Shall Lead: A young black girl is profoundly moved by the coming of the civil rights movement to her Mississippi town
12.00 The Diary of Anne Frank (1959): Based on the true story of a group of Dutch Jews who hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic. Starring Millie Perkins
2.00pm Uphill All the Way (1985): The adventures of two inept robbers (Burl Ives, Burt Reynolds) on the run from the law
4.00 The Dog That Stopped the War: Children's film about a snowball fight that escalates out of proportion
6.00 Second Sight: A Love Story (1984): When a blind woman's sight is restored she finds it hard to part with her guide dog
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Bert Rigby, You're a Fool (1989): Robert Lindsay makes his Hollywood debut as a miner who dreams of becoming a star
9.40 At the Pictures
10.00 The Battle of the Blockbusters Viewers can decide between, either, Gorillas in the Mist (1988) The true story of the anthropologist Dian Fossey (Sigourney Weaver), or Good Morning Vietnam (1987): Robin Williams stars as the manic DJ, whose irreverent on-air antics endear him to the troops in Vietnam
12.10am Rampage (1988): A lawyer (Michael Biehn) goes against his beliefs to secure the death penalty for a murderer
2.00 The Boston Strangler (1968): Tony Curtis and Henry Fonda star in this documentary-drama about one of America's most notorious killers
4.00 Frantic (1988): An American doctor (Harrison Ford) teams up with a Parisian girl (Emmanuelle Seigner) to find his missing wife. Ends at 5.55

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 European Business Today 6.00 The DJ Kat Show 7.30 Eurobics 8.00 Smash Formula 3 1990 Motor Racing 8.30 International Handball 9.30 Biathlon World Championships 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Sports Special: The Motor Sport Year 1.00pm Golf Lyons Skins 2.00 Indoor Athletics 3.00 Rodeo Showdown 3.30 US College Basketball 4.30 World Circus Championships 5.00 Bobsleigh World Cup 5.30 Transworld Sport 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 The Ford Ski Report 8.00 Ringside 10.00 European Cup Football 11.00 Golf Million Dollar Challenge 12.00 Eurosport News 12.30am British Touring Cars 1990 Season

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Pool Billiards Brunswick Masters 8.00 Sport de France 8.30 USA Kick Boxing 10.00 Stop-Rhythmic/Artistic World Cup Gymnastics 11.00 Ten Pin Bowling 12.15pm Go 1.15 US Pro Ski Tour Giant Slalom 2.00 Golf Centenary Skins 3.00 Hippodrome French Racing 3.30 US Pro Boxing 5.00 Stop-World of Champs 6.00 US PGA Doral Ryder Open 8.00 World Snooker Classics 10.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 12.00 Speedway Ice Racing

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Great American Gameshows 11.15 Lifestyle Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Workout 11.50 Slim Cooking 12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 What's New? 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of Night 2.00 Film: Ballroom 3.55 Tea Break 4.05 Phyllis 4.35 Great American Gameshows 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
2.10pm Autumn Leaves (1956, b/w): A lonely woman (Joan Crawford) has doubts following her marriage to a younger man (Cliff Robertson)
4.00 The Movie Show
4.25 The Navigator (1988): A pilgrimage by the inhabitants of a 14th century village ends up in modern-day New Zealand
6.00 Takeover: George (Barry Otto) creates a computer with a personality
7.30 The Movie Show
8.00 Perfect People (1988): A married couple (Lauren Hutton and Perry King) decide to live more healthily
10.00 Kidnapped (1986) Barbara Crampton joins forces with an undercover agent (David Naughton) to rescue her sister from the clutches of child pornographers
11.40 Blue Movies (1987): Two friends decide that pornographic movies will reap their fortune
1.15am Emma: Queen of the Seas — Part One (1988) Barbara Carrera stars in this tale about the daughter of a Samoan princess who falls in love with an American ship's captain. Ends at 2.55

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
1.30pm Racing Today 2.00 Supercross 3.00 Live Test Match Cricket 7.30 Live Basketball: Kingston in Europe 9.00 Live Test Match Cricket 11.00 Racing Today 11.30 Fishing the West 12.00 Test Match Cricket 1.00am Basketball: Kingston in Europe

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only): Arts — Language and the Novel
6.55 Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in F, BWV 1046: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Marriner); Glazunov (Chant du ménestrel: CO of Europe under Gardiner, with Steven Isserlis, cello)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Borodin (Polovtsian Dances, Prince Igor: Cleveland Orchestra under Szell); Chausson (Poème: Paris Orchestra under Martinon, with Itzhak Perlman, violin); Tchaikovsky (Ballet, The Nutcracker — excerpts: LSO under André Previn)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Debussy. Mes longs cheveux descendent, Pelléas et Mélisande, Act 3 Sc 1 (Soloists: Orchestre de Lyon under Serge Baudo); L'isle joyeuse (Zoltán Kocsis, piano); Fêtes galantes, Book 2 (Bernard Kruysen, baritone, Noël Lee, piano); Images, Book 1 (Zoltán Kocsis, piano); Danse sacrée et danse profane (Prometheus Ensemble, with Caryl Thomas, harp)
9.35 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Mozart (Sinfonia Concertante in E flat, K 297b: Wind Quartet, English Sinfonia under Groves); Monteverdi (Madrigals: Lamento della ninfa; Su pastorelli vezzosi: Soloists; Capella Savaria under McGegan); L. Berkeley (Divertimento in B flat, Op 18: LPO under the composer); Rimsky-Korsakov (Symphony No 2 Op 9, Antar: Pittsburgh SO under Maazel); Mascagni (Suzel, buon dì, L'Amico Fritz, Act 2: Orchestra of La Scala, Milan under Antonicelli); Walton (Viola Concerto: Yehudi Menuhin; New Philharmonia under the composer); Beethoven (O Welche Lust, Fidelio, Act 1: Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra under Klemperer)
12.00 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Tadaaki Otaka performs Britten (Four Sea Interludes, Peter Grimes); Dvořák (Symphony No 8 in G, Op 88)
1.00pm News
1.05 Concert Hall: Live from Broadcasting House, London. The pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet plays Ravel (Menuet Antique; Miroirs); Brahms (Paganini Variations, Book 1)
2.00 Record Review (r)
3.10 Vintage Years: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Thomas Beecham performs Mozart (Overture, The Magic Flute; Violin Concerto No 4 in D, K 218: with Jascha Heifetz; Symphony No 27 in G, K 199)
4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge
5.00 Music from the Roof of the World: The second of two programmes. Riccardo Canzio introduces a concert by musicians from the Tibetan Institute for Performing Arts
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure, with Richard Baker
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear, with Robert Hewison
7.30 Mathis der Maler: Chorus and Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin under Jiri Kout performs Götz Friedrich's new production of Paul Hindemith's opera. With Jorma Hynninen, tenor, as Mathis. 8.35 A discussion on Hindemith's interpretation of the painter Grünewald. 8.50 Part 2
10.00 Come the Revolution

● CHOICE: Jack Emery has all but cornered the market in radio features about mid-17th century England. Remember his dramatisation of the 1647 Putney debates? Tonight, as a curtain-raiser to his Radio 3 reconstructions of three historic trials (of Charles I, John Lilburne, and Thomas Harrison) which start on Friday night, he contributes to Piers Plowright's anthology on social, literary, musical and scientific trends between 1640 and 1660. He is in fine company. It includes the novelists Eva Figes and Rose Tremain, the historians Christopher Hill and Pauline Gregg, and the musicologist Bernard Palmer

10.45 Ronan O'Hora, piano, plays Beethoven (Bagatelles, Op 126; Sonata in A, Op 101) (r)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Frank Bridge (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.58 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Midweek, with Libby Purves
10.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time: A postbag edition (r)
10.30 Morning Story: The Voice of God, by Winifred Holtby. Read by Hugh Dickson
10.45 Daily Service
11.00 News; File on 4: Mandla Thema reports from Soweto (r)
11.42 Profile: A portrait of Hans Welser-Möst, the chief conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Standings: The Custody of the Pumpkin. The first of six short stories by P G Wodehouse (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: The guest is Winsome Cornish, the new editor of *The Voice*; and there is a discussion on marriage guidance
3.00 News; Independence: Full Tide. The last of a four-part drama by Angus Graham-Campbell, set in a progressive school on the south coast (s)
3.47 Enquire Within: Dilly Barlow discovers the origins of the parliamentary despatch box and finds out why some people can remember their dreams
4.00 News
4.05 End of a Line

● CHOICE: Since it commemorates the death of familiar things, Paul Heiney's four-part series, of which this feature about Northumberland's Longstone lighthouse is the first, makes sad listening for sentimentalists. Longstone has been manually operated for over 200 years. None of its keepers was more famous than William Darling, father of Grace, heroine of the 1838 rescue mission. Now it has become fully automated, being computer-operated from a terminal in distant Harwich. More moist-eyed listening next week, with a fond farewell to the guides who have led travellers safely across the treacherous quicksands of Morecambe Bay.

4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of the film *Godfather III*, the BBC2 series *Naked Hollywood* and the Soviet pianist Yevgeny Kissin performing live at New York's Carnegie Hall; and Rohinton Mistry talks about his novel, *Such a Long Journey* (s)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 News; Financial Report
6.30 Slightly Foxed: Gill Pyrah chairs the first in a new series of the well-read literary quiz. With Julian Mitchell, Chris Bigsby and John Walsh (s) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Age to Age: Barry Cunliffe, Elizabeth Longford and Sean Street examine the legacies of Queen Victoria's reign (r)
7.45 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts (r)
8.15 A Perspective for Living: In the fourth of six programmes, Bel Mooney talks to Pamela Gillilan who, following the death of her husband, found that she had a latent talent as a poet (s)
8.45 In Business (new series): The Credit Strike. Presented by Peter Day (s)
9.15 Kaleidoscope (s) (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The Secret Pilgrim, by John Le Carré (6 of 10)
11.00 Murder Most Foul: The Body in the Trunk, by John Scotney. Nick Rose narrates the fourth of six true murder cases. In 1934 the body of Tony Mancini's common law wife, Violet Kaye, was discovered in his flat. Mancini's only hope of acquittal lay with his lawyer, Norman Birkett (s)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW 5.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '91 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 The Man Ezeke Sunshine Show 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester: The Early Show 6.00 Ken Bruce 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Debbie Thrower 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Pasadena Roof Orchestra (r) 7.30 Squeezing Round the World 8.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 9.00 Nigel Ogden: The Organist Entertains 9.30 The French Had a Song for It 10.00 Chris Stuart 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.35 John Terrett with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 5

6.00 World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 The Family Business, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm Education Matters 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service Meridian Feature 3.00 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Backing the Canvas 3.45 Network UK 4.00 Sport 4.05 Development '91 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit: Rosemary Leach reads Judith Kerr's best-selling novel (8 of 10) 7.35 Jacob Two-Two and the Hooded Fang: The second of a three-part comedy series by Mordecai Richler 8.00 Champion Sport with Jon Champion. Football: European Cup-Winners' Cup, first leg — Manchester United v Montpellier; Boxing: From Wembley Arena — Lennox Lewis (GB) v Gary Mason (GB) for the British and European Heavyweight titles 9.30 Earshot, incl 10.00 Sport 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service: The Human Chain 11.38 The World Today 11.53 Words of Faith 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German, Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.15 24 Hours 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Business Matters 8.30 Just a Minute 9.00 News 9.15 Country Style 9.30 Financial News 9.35 Sports Roundup 9.45 Images of Britain 10.01 Omnibus 10.30 Jazz for the Asking 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 New Ideas 12.35 Give us Our Daily Bread 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.15 24 Hours 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: The Life and Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin 2.45 Business Matters 3.00 News 3.15 As We Forgive 3.30 Pigs Have Wings 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 5.45 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 Recording of the Week 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Assignment 9.00 News 9.01 Sportsworld, incl Sports Roundup 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.09 Financial News 11.15 Good Books 11.30 Multitrack 2 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Pigs Have Wings 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Waveguide 1.40 Book Choice 1.45 Sportsworld 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Assignment 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Network UK 3.30 Ned Sherrin's Counterpoint 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

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Heathrow open to highest bidding airlines

By Harvey Elliott
AIR CORRESPONDENT

LANDING slots at London's Heathrow airport are to be thrown open to the highest bidder after a decision which last night brought the government a deluge of criticism from some airlines and MPs on both sides of the House. It also brought a promise from Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group, that he would cut transatlantic fares on Virgin Airways by 15 per cent.

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, yesterday accepted advice from the Civil Aviation Authority that rules restricting the number of foreign carriers at Heathrow should be scrapped and that any airline should be free to bid for the dwindling number of take off and landing slots.

Mr Branson said that he would be seeking slots for many of his long haul services to North America and Japan to operate from Heathrow rather than from Gatwick. "I am delighted by this decision ... The rules meant that British Caledonian, Laker and ourselves were never able to compete directly with BA but now we will be able to do so. And it should mean that we will be able to offer lower fares on the long haul routes."

Britannia Airways, Britain's biggest holiday airline, said it planned to fly from Heathrow now charter airlines were being allowed in. The scrapping of the rules should also pave the way for United Airlines to take over Pan Am's operations at Heathrow and for American to replace TWA. Talks are to be held in Washington tomorrow on wider transatlantic air agreements.

British Airways and another Heathrow operator, Brymon Airways, were less happy at the decision. BA said it was concerned about how full Heathrow could become.

If large international airlines such as All Nippon, now forced to fly to Gatwick, are successful in finding convenient slots at Heathrow it could put additional pressure on smaller Gatwick-based airlines, such as Air Europe and Dan Air, that rely on picking up intercontinental passengers for these airlines.

David Wilshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, which includes part of Heathrow, said he feared pressure for more night flights. "I am appalled. My constituents are appalled. British airlines are appalled."

MARC ASPLAND

All over: Margaret Smith reunited with her husband after her five days of captivity in chains in a flat above a high street shop

Wife in manacles rescued after five-day ordeal

Continued from page 1

find Mrs Smith manacled with plastic chains secured by a padlock. Mr Boyce said: "I am no hero. I don't feel heroic. A hero is someone who saves someone's life. I did what anyone would have done."

Police said last night that the kidnapper had taken steps to disguise his appearance. They added that the device used to produce the Dalek effect on the voice was a toy.

During Mrs Smith's captivity, Mr Smith was given telephone instructions leading him to a tape cassette which included a recording of his wife's voice. There was a call with instructions to go to a location in Gaddesden Row, a village near Hemel Hempstead, where Mr Smith would find a tape cassette on a pile of concrete at the roadside.

Mr Cansdale said the tape lasted about five minutes. "The kidnapper spoke, using his Dalek voice throughout, at some length, in which he was putting pressure on Mr Smith."

After references to £250,000, the kidnapper emphasised the uncomfortable conditions Mrs Smith was having to endure – "severely inhospitable" were the words used. "He put pressure on Roger Smith not to involve police, by using his wife's name," Mr Cansdale said.

Further references to Mrs Smith were made when the kidnapper warned Mr Smith not to play "tricks" and not to tap his telephone.

The kidnapper said: "Margaret sends her love to the family." He then referred to an event which she should have attended on Saturday with 12-year-old Sally. The kidnapper then allowed Mrs Smith to speak on the tape. She said she had not had anything to eat other than two biscuits since being abducted.

While Mrs Smith was being held, the antique shop on the ground floor of the premises was open to customers. Police officers confirmed they had been to a flat near the one in which Mrs Smith was held after two boys playing outside a newsagent's shop had reported hearing a woman's cry four days earlier, but the flat had been reported empty.

Mrs Smith said of her ordeal: "There were quite a few times when I was pretty frightened. I don't think I ever knew that my legs could shake quite so much."

Germans find a bug with an appetite for Trabants

From Anne McElvoy in Berlin

ONCE it was the spluttering pride and joy of East German motorists. Then it was voted Car of the Year for ferrying thousands of its owners across the Hungarian border to a new life in the West. Now the Trabant has been discarded, left to rot on the scrapheap of German unity, but it also looks like becoming the latest challenge to German science.

East German roadsides are littered with Trabant corpses as drivers forsake their vehicles for Western cars. The wheels and engines are poached within days, and the unsightly shells pose an environmental hazard.

Unlike ordinary cars, they cannot be crushed or recycled since the chassis were made of synthetic resin and Soviet cotton wool waste. Currently the cars are reduced to toxic waste, which is expensive to dispose of because it requires special tips. Now, however, a Berlin institute has come up with a project to rid the city of Trabi refuse by having it devoured by micro-organisms.

The Biotechnological Research and Development Centre is experimenting with micro-organisms which feed on the artificial materials in the chassis until nothing is left. The project's chief researcher, Franz Weissbach, said: "This is a completely new method which we believe could also be used to deal with other stubborn waste. We have started researching on the Trabant because there is a clear need for a proper disposal system for it."

He claims that the centre will be able to demolish a Trabant using mixed micro-organisms and mould within two years. "The process should take a couple of weeks and we believe we can develop it so that no harmful residues are produced."

The centre is struggling to survive in the advanced world of German research, having formerly been state-supported. But it faces competition in the research race. Chemical engineers at the Zwickau plant, which originally produced the Trabi, claim they can heat the chassis to a high temperature at which it would disintegrate.

But Dr Weissbach remains hopeful that his variation will be the long-term victor. "We are more ecological and will break new ground with our method," he said. "Anything which can devour a Trabi probably has an appetite for a lot more besides."

Political sketch

Minister in shock drug confession

"MY BATHROOM cupboard has far too many unused drugs in it." This shock admission came yesterday from the health secretary, William Waldegrave, to Dame Jill Knight (C, Birmingham, Edgbaston). The kindly dame, a sort of genteel Tory version of Claire Rayner, had asked about "overprescribing" and perhaps expected an answer more in terms of government policy than Mr Waldegrave's bathroom. But the cabinet in the privy interested the minister more than the privy councillors in the cabinet. His candid domestic revelation rocked us back on our heels, answering one question, only to pose another.

Which drugs, in particular, has the tousled Mr Waldegrave got to spare?

The hair-curling pills are obviously in use. Caroline Waldegrave is a splendid cook, so there should be no need for Rennies. Nor can I see what use he would have for Alka-Seltzer; in a humorous letter to this newspaper only a fortnight ago, the health secretary declared that "I have never once been drunk in my life".

How about spots? Young Waldegrave's rise to stardom has been meteoric and he is not long out of political nappies. However, the acne appears to have cleared up.

No, the chemical stockpile they call the Waldegraves's bathroom must be overwhelmed by two substances. Valium, mountains of it, no longer needed, from when Mrs Thatcher was his boss; and huge quantities of amphetamines to keep him awake now that Mr Major is.

There were moments yesterday when I thought young William might be hitting the poppers rather too hard. An intense man at the best of times, his hair frizzed and standing on end in the manner of a Sixties rock star, Waldegrave stood with arms waving and eyes staring as he besought the medical profession to get their cervical smear campaigns into orbit.

Eric Illsley (Lab, Barnsley Central) sought wider availability of "child growth hormones", ginger-headed Robin Cook, the opposition health spokesman who snorts a lethal cocktail of carotene and arsenic, needled Waldegrave from across the dispatch box, and the health secretary looked in danger of burn-out.

And this was only the beginning of Waldegrave's distress. For prime minister's questions came next. Yet 15 minutes in which he might have hoped to relax while John MacGregor (standing in for Mr Major) took the flak turned out to feature poor Waldegrave yet again – the centre of a new shock.

I suspect he was falsely accused. I blame Roy Hattersley. Standing in for Mr Kinnock, Hattersley asked MacGregor whether he backed Waldegrave's view of the poll tax. At a by-election press conference in Clitheroe on Monday (explained Hattersley) Waldegrave had stated that he had "no regrets, no apology".

Well, I was there. I cannot remember Waldegrave stating any such thing. A *journalist* asked him whether he had any regrets or apology to express over the poll tax. Waldegrave avoided a direct answer, replying that it had been an "honourable" attempt. He explained what he hoped would be preserved under any new system.

MacGregor flannelled vigorously until prodded with the message that Waldegrave had not said what he was said to have said, whereupon MacGregor's brow turned to thunder and he stormed away at Hattersley for some time. Waldegrave was a whiter shade of pale. MacGregor, grey man standing in for grey man, became, for a spell, a darker shade of grey.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Amis accuses victims of selective memories

Continued from page 1

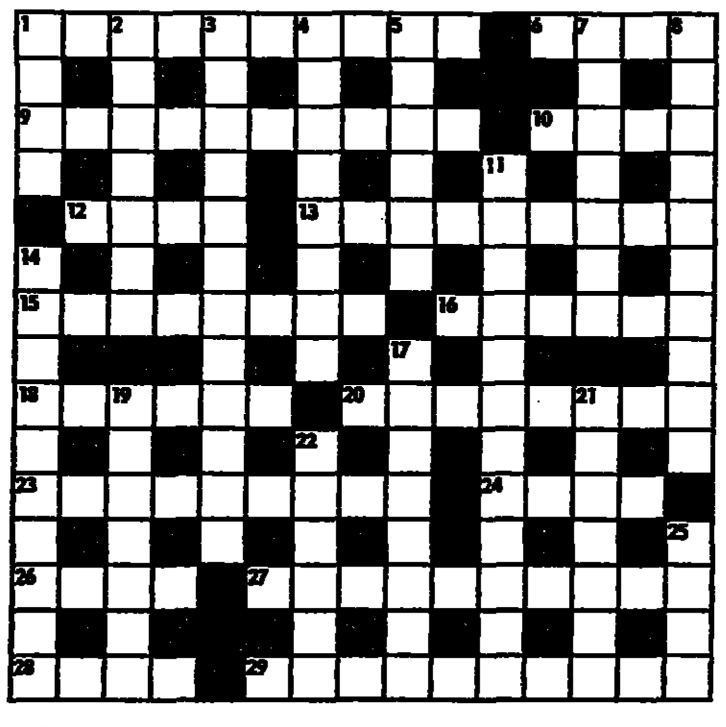
agricultural show?" But readers may flinch or boggle at some of the things Amis says that Muggeridge got up to when he was not sticking huge rosettes on prize heifers.

Sir Kingsley tells of a failed trilateral orgy that Muggeridge tried to whip up with Sonia Orwell. Muggeridge is also described as a lazy man whose fame depended on his television appearances. That is fairly mild. Dylan Thomas is "a pernicious figure, one who has helped to get Wales and Welsh poetry a bad name and generally done lasting harm to both". Amis thought George Steiner arrogant about his "cultural omniscience", but worse still were the "drinkless hiatuses at his dinner parties". Kenneth Griffith, who had a major role in the film of *Lucky Jim*, is a "little subversive creep". Arnold Wesker, the playright, had Amis to dinner several times and was then smeared by his guest because "he wouldn't respect anyone who didn't think him marvellous". But Wesker cannot recall ever having had Amis to dinner.

Enoch Powell, who is ridiculed for taking Amis to task over the Latin derivation of the word "impinge", also has no memory of meeting Amis. In fact, when Sir Kingsley rolled in to Grosvenor House yesterday in a wheelchair, many suspected that his victims had taken their revenge. But arthritis was the culprit.

"It's just the sort of book I would have expected," Auberon Waugh said. "He always goes too far. Not only insults people, but insults their wives as well." Waugh must be wondering if his own memoirs, expected this autumn, will be able to compete.

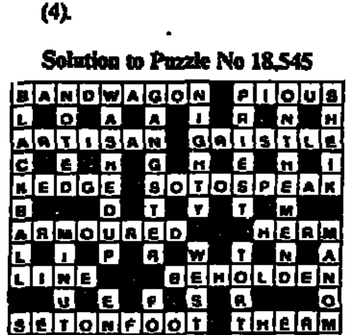
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,546



ACROSS
- 1 A shack in a row (10).
- 6 Group to plug in speech (4).
- 9 Clara, Pete and I may present a reredos (5-5).
- 10 A sign the submariner gives on return (4).
- 12 Pleasant city (4).
- 13 Non-existent, like some numbers (9).
- 15 Tree feller, commonly, was once a local worthy (8).
- 16 Fish train? (6).
- 18 Resolve to dump El Campeador in the river (6).
- 20 A smug sign in places swarming with workers (8).
- 23 Instrument introducing unfinished composition reverberated (9).
- 24 Conference for slimmers? (4).
- 26 A mother and father of mankind (4).
- 27 Silk thread work replaced by stripe as basis for jumpers (10).
- 28 Man had included note to attend (4).
- 29 They cheat, taking rest wrongly after spells at the helm (10).

DOWN
- 1 True focal point of Surrealism (4).
- 2 Being inexperienced, I turned awkwardly (7).
- 3 It's hard to resign, perhaps, after tough bargaining (5-7).
- 4 Archetype of one drink not written about (8).
- 5 Gregarious in the get-together (6).
- 7 A gumboil burst, getting rid of one complaint (7).
- 8 Sweet are the outskirts of the city on the literary river (5-5).
- 11 They may cause sickness in game (5,3,4).
- 14 Blunter expletive? Nonsense (10).
- 17 It's a long story about the same outbreak (8).
- 19 Accountant's revolutionary fall (7).
- 21 List indicates a difficult tie in the semi, perhaps? Quite the opposite (7).
- 22 One looking hard for the Sun King? (6).
- 25 20 inmates in a saintly 16 (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,545



Concise crossword, page 17

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

PORCINOLOGIST
a. Collector of piggies
b. Greedy
c. Student of porcupines

PESADE
a. A Venezuelan coin
b. A horse manoeuvre
c. Falling

CHOWRY
a. A Pacific shell
b. A fly scarer
c. Covered with tight curls

MADAROSIS
a. Making damp
b. Loss of the eyebrows
c. Strip ploughing

Answers on page 22

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M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

England and Wales will be cloudy with occasional bright spells. Rain or drizzle at times in northern England and on south and east coasts, becoming more persistent in parts of southern and southwest England. Northern Ireland, southern and eastern Scotland will stay cloudy, with some showers in the northern isles. The rest of Scotland should stay dry. Outlook: mild and cloudy with some rain.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow, f=fair, c=cloud, r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Madrid	12	54	c
Akrotiri	14	57	f	Majorca	20	68	f
Alex'dria	14	57	c	Malaga	15	59	c
Algiers	20	68	s	Malta	17	63	f
Amst'dm	10	50	r	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Athens	11	52	s	Miami*	24	75	f
Barbads*	30	86	s	Milan	11	52	c
Barcelna	13	55	c	Montreal*	-4	25	sn
Belgrade	15	59	s	Moscow	1	34	s
Berlin	8	46	f	Munich	10	50	s
Bermuda*	23	73	f	Nairobi	27	81	f
Biarritz	15	59	c	Naples	16	61	s
Borde'x	14	57	c	N Delhi	23	73	s
Brussels	12	54	c	N York*	14	57	c
Budapst	5	41	f	Nice	15	59	f
Cairo	13	55	c	Oslo	-2	28	c
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Paris	14	57	c
C'blanca	17	63	c	Peking	15	59	s
Chicago*	3	37	s	Perth	27	81	s
Ch'church	15	59	s	Prague	3	37	c
Cologne	7	45	r	Reykjavik	6	43	f
C'phagn	3	37	f	Rhodes	13	55	s
Corfu	14	57	s	Rio de J	34	93	s
Dublin	12	54	f	Rome	16	61	s
Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Salzburg	9	48	s
Faro	15	59	r	S F'risco*	16	61	r
Florence	17	63	s	Santiago*	32	90	s
Frankfurt	7	45	r	S Paulo*	25	77	c
Funchal	17	63	r	Seoul	12	54	s
Geneva	9	48	c	Sing'por	32	90	s
Gibraltar	16	61	f	St'kholm	1	34	c
Helsinki	0	32	c	Strasb'rg	12	54	s
Hong K	21	70	c	Tangier	13	55	f
Innsbrck	14	57	s	Tel Aviv	14	57	r
Istanbul	5	41	f	Tenerife	19	66	s
Jo'burg*	26	79	f	Toronto*	-2	28	sn
Karachi	25	77	s	Tunis	19	66	s
L Palmas	19	66	f	Valencia	15	59	c
Le Touqt	11	52	r	Venice	7	45	fg
Lisbon	12	54	r	Vienna	3	37	c
Locarno	11	52	c	Warsaw	3	37	s
L Angels*	20	68	c	Wash'ton*	9	48	f
Luxembg	10	50	c	Wel'ton	20	68	s
Luxor	19	66	c	Zurich	7	45	c

* denotes figures are latest available

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.39 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.6 hr.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.53	2.36
Austria Sch	21.50	20.10
Belgium Fr	62.60	58.60
Canada $	2.315	2.165
Denmark Kr	11.69	10.99
Finland Mkk	7.42	6.97
France Fr	10.33	9.68
Germany Dm	3.045	2.845
Greece Dr	327	307
Hong Kong $	15.40	14.40
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2290	2140
Japan Yen	272.80	255.80
Netherlands Gld	3.43	3.22
Norway Kr	11.89	11.19
Portugal Esc	265	249
South Africa Rd	5.65	5.05
Spain Pta	189	176
Sweden Kr	11.33	10.65
Switzerland Fr	2.64	2.47
Turkey Lira	7000	5800
USA $	1.935	1.875
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	27.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.8	-	6	43	cloudy
Anglesey	-	.27	9	48	rain
Aviemore	-	.01	7	45	rain
Belfast	-	.13	7	45	rain
Birmingham	-	.17	8	46	rain
Blackpool	-	.15	8	46	rain
Bognor Regis	-	.04	7	45	rain
Bournemouth	-	.19	9	48	rain
Brighton	-	.02	10	50	rain
Bristol	-	.09	10	50	rain
Cardiff	-	.24	9	48	rain
Clacton	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Cromer	-	.04	9	48	rain
Douglas	-	.42	6	43	rain
Edinburgh	-	.02	7	45	rain
Exmouth	-	.76	9	48	rain
Falmouth	-	.76	10	50	rain
Folkestone	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Guernsey	-	.13	12	54	cloudy
Hastings	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Hunstanton	-	.05	9	48	shower
Jersey	-	.07	13	55	cloudy
Kinloss	0.8	-	7	45	cloudy
Leeds	-	.13	8	46	rain
Littlehampton	-	.04	9	48	rain
Lowestoft	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Minehead	-	.28	10	50	rain
Morecambe	-	.28	7	45	rain
Nottingham	-	.13	7	45	rain
Penzance	-	.74	12	54	rain
Poole	-	.19	11	52	rain
Saunton Snd	-	.40	10	50	rain
Scarborough	-	.09	6	43	dull
Scilly Isles	0.2	.31	11	52	cloudy
Shanklin	-	.03	9	48	rain
Southend	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Southsea	-	.09	9	48	rain
St. Ives	-	.78	11	52	dull
Teignmouth	-	.89	10	50	rain
Tenby	-	.69	8	46	rain
Tiree	-	.26	6	43	rain
Torquay	-	.78	10	50	rain
Weymouth	-	.29	9	48	rain
Wick	2.8	-	6	43	bright
Worthing	-	.03	8	46	rain

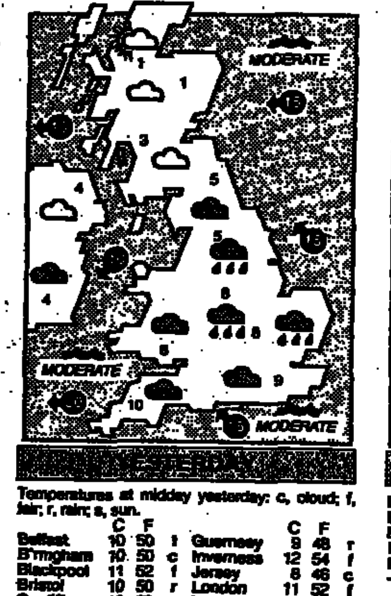
These are Monday's figures.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

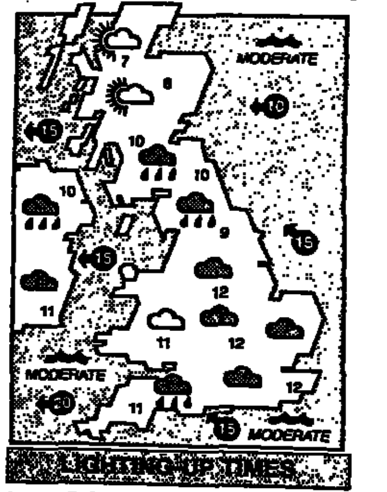
For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin. S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.



PM



YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

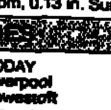
	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	10	50	f	Guernsey	9	48	r
B'rmgham	10	50	c	Inverness	12	54	f
Blackpool	11	52	f	Jersey	8	46	c
Bristol	10	50	r	London	11	52	f
Cardiff	10	50	r	M'nchster	11	52	f
Edinburgh	9	48	s	Newcastle	10	50	f
Glasgow	10	50	f	R'nldsway	9	48	s

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway; Inverbervie, Grampian, and St Abb's Head, Borders, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Camborne, Cornwall; and Exeter, Devon, 0.9 in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 5.8 hr.

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 5.49 pm to 6.34 am
Bristol 5.59 pm to 6.44 am
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 6.50 am
Manchester 5.55 pm to 6.44 am
Penzance 6.12 pm to 6.54 am



Sun rises: 6.36 am
Sun sets: 5.49 pm
Moon rises 12.06 am
Moon sets 8.12 am
Last quarter March 8

MANCHESTER

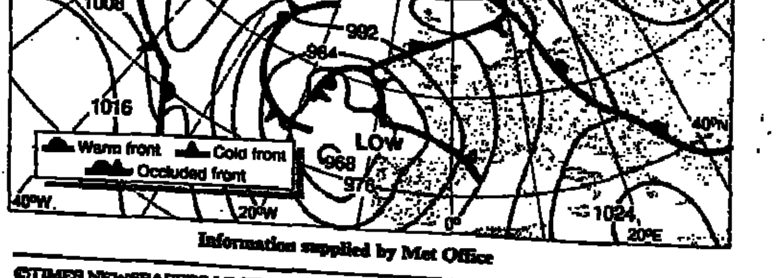
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F) Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.13 in. Sun. 24hr to 6pm, 0.8 hr.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.02	6.9	5.23	6.7	Liverpool	2.15	8.6	2.32	8.4
Aberdeen	4.28	3.7	4.45	3.7	Lowestoft	12.30	2.4	1.01	2.1
Avonmouth	10.21	11.9	10.35	11.4	Margate	3.04	4.6	3.25	4.3
Belfast	2.16	3.2	2.43	3.3	Milford Haven	9.25	6.2	9.42	6.0
Cardiff	10.6	11.1	10.20	10.6	Newquay	8.18	6.3	8.36	6.1
Devonport	8.41	5.0	9.00	4.9	Oban	8.38	3.4	8.59	3.4
Dover	2.04	6.3	2.19	6.0	Penzance	7.47	5.1	8.07	4.9
Falmouth	8.11	4.8	8.30	4.7	Portland	9.47	1.8	10.00	1.7
Glasgow	3.57	4.3	4.04	4.5	Portsmouth	2.39	4.3	2.56	4.1
Harwich	2.54	3.8	3.14	3.5	Shoreham	2.04	5.9	2.26	5.5
Holyhead	1.21	5.0	1.41	4.9	Southampton	2.01	4.2	2.19	4.0
Hull	9.32	6.8	9.49	6.8	Swansea	9.29	8.7	9.45	8.5
Ilfracombe	9.08	8.2	9.22	7.9	Tees	6.58	4.8	7.14	4.8
King's Lynn	9.40	5.8	9.49	5.8	W'ton-on-Nze	2.49	4.1	3.08	3.8
Leith	5.57	4.8	6.23	4.8					

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS
WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30
- LAW 37
- ACCOUNTANCY RESULTS 37
- SPORT 38-42

Williams above forecast

PRE-TAX profits of Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, fell 14 per cent to £126 million last year. That is marginally ahead of the forecast of not less than £125 million made with the successful offer for Yale and Valor. As forecast, the total dividend has been raised from 11.5p to 12p.

Earnings per share fell from an adjusted 26.9p to 22.3p excluding exceptional items, or from about 27.8p to 21.5p including exceptionals.

The profit setback was mainly due to a slump in British profits from £72 million to £49.3 million. This partly reflected an 11 per cent drop in the consumer and building products division to £53.8 million as well as the sale of the Crown-Berger paints business, which yielded most of the extraordinary credit of £72 million.

Net interest charges fell £3 million to £10 million.

Raine declines

Pre-tax profits at Raine Industries fell 27 per cent to £8.1 million in the six months to the end of December with unit house sales declining by 13 per cent. Margins in all three of the company's main divisions, housebuilding, general contracting and interior contracting, have come under pressure. However, the company is paying an unchanged dividend of 0.2p and is confident of a "satisfactory performance" for the full year.

Tempus, page 27

Hays is steady

Hays, the business services group, reports pre-tax profits of £27.5 million for the six months to December 31 against a pro forma £27.3 million. The interim dividend is raised from 1.15p to 1.3p.

Tempus, page 27

Shares surge

Shares surged through the 2,400 mark to close at their highest for more than a year. The FT-SE 100 index jumped 37.2 to 2,420.1 — just 43.6 below its all-time high of 2,463.7 on January 3 last year. Investors shrugged off gloomy trading news from Midland Bank, pinning their hopes instead on another cut in base rates in the run-up to the Budget. **Markets, page 29**

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9005 (+0.0035)
German mark
2.9196 (+0.0064)
Exchange index
93.8 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1946.0 (+27.9)
FT-SE 100
2420.1 (+37.2)
New York Dow Jones
2956.68 (+42.57)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
25913.48 (−62.54)
Closing Prices ... Page 28

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Barclays	441½p	(+11p)
Kleinwort Benson	350p	(+10p)
Nat West	332½p	(+21p)
Grand Met	735p	(+13p)
Hardys & Hansons	955p	(+17p)
Boc	568½p	(+14p)
Graham Wood	110p	(+10p)
Heywood Williams	320p	(+22p)
RMC Group	732½p	(+11p)
Tilbury Group	690p	(+20p)
Turriff	96p	(+10p)
Wilson Bowden	430p	(+22p)
Reed Intl	427½p	(+10p)
Hunting	196½p	(+10p)
GKN	379p	(+10p)
St Ives Group	232½p	(+13p)
Granada	187½p	(+14p)
Pearson	748½p	(+23p)
Securicor 'A'	510p	(+23p)
Savoy Hotels 'A'	812½p	(+13p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 13%
3-month Interbank 12 11/16-12⅝%
3-month eligible bills: 11 31/32-11⅞%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 6¼%*
3-month Treasury Bills 6.06-6.05%*
30-year bonds 95¾-95 13/16*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9005	£: $1.9020*
£: DM2.9196	$: DM1.5333*
£: SwFr2.5419	$: SwFr1.3350*
£: FFr9.9311	$: FFr5.2235*
£: Yen257.43	$: Yen135.33*
£: Index:93.8	$: Index:61.9
ECU £0.703650	SDR £0.742585
£: ECU1.421161	£: SDR1.346629

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $364.30 pm-$364.50
close $364.50-365.00 (£191.30-191.80)
New York:
Comex $366.85-367.35*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) ...... $19.45 bbl ($19.65)
* Denotes latest trading price

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Midland halves dividend

By Neil Bennett, banking correspondent

SIR Kit McMahon has resigned as chairman and chief executive of Midland after the bank was forced to halve its dividend following a slump in profits. Midland is the first British clearing bank to cut its dividend for more than 50 years.

Sir Peter Walters, the former chairman of British Petroleum, is joining the bank as a vice-chairman, and will become chairman when Sir Kit leaves in June.

Brian Pearse, the finance director at Barclays Bank, will take over as chief executive today after a request by the Bank of England.

Sir Kit's resignation came as Midland announced that it suffered a 90 per cent fall in profits before exceptional items to £63 million in 1990. It was forced to increase its bad debt provisions by 129 per cent to £703 million.

Sir Kit, aged 64, said he had decided to leave because of the need to separate the chairman and chief executive posts at the bank. He decided to retire after the failure of merger talks with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation last December. "If a merger had taken place a natural progression would have presented itself," he said.

He went to Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, in January to ask for help in his search for a chief executive. Mr Leigh-Pemberton persuaded Barclays to release Mr Pearse for the job. "We needed someone with top level experience in a major British banking group, able to complement our existing management team," Sir Kit said. He was leaving a year earlier than expected to allow the new management team to begin work.

Sir Kit, deputy governor of the Bank of England before joining Midland in 1986, is entitled to a golden handshake approaching £700,000. Midland will not comment on how much he will be collecting. Nor will the bank give details on how much it has been compelled to pay to recruit Mr Pearse. Mr Pearse said he was proud to be asked to take the job. "I agonised for five days, but I have been at Barclays for 40 years and had always wanted to do something else for a few years before I retired."

Sir Peter is taking a non-executive position at the bank and will remain chairman of Blue Circle Industries.

The slump in Midland's profits forced the bank to reduce its final dividend by 9p to 1.7p, to make a payout for the year of 9p, down from 18p in 1989. "It was a difficult decision to take," said Sir Kit. "We weighed up the immediate blow to shareholders income against a longer term gain. We thought it was prudent and fundamentally right to reduce the dividend."

Midland's pre-tax profit was £11 million, up from a loss of £261 million in 1989, when it made an exceptional provision of £877 million against its Third World debts.

Midland has written off its anticipated tax relief, which led to a £188 million tax charge, and the loss per share is 24.7p, against last year's 28.3p loss. The bank is also making an exceptional provision of £52 million for its restructuring.

"Our bad debt provisions have not been worse than other banks," Sir Kit said. "But our problems have been made worse through insufficient underlying profitability caused by the high costs in the business and insufficient retentions." Midland's profits were also depressed by misreading interest rate changes, which cost its treasury book more than £100 million last year.

Midland is undergoing a cost-cutting programme, including 4,000 job cuts by the end of the year.

Comment, page 27

PETER TREVNOR

Sir Kit McMahon, who is entitled to nearly £700,000

What went wrong

1984: Crocker National Bank, Midland's Californian subsidiary, loses $324 million, at the time the second largest loss recorded by an American bank.

May 1986: Crocker sold to Wells Fargo, a rival Californian bank, for $1.07 billion.

September 1986: Senior management reorganised after Sir Kit McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England, joins Midland as chief executive.

March 1987: Midland becomes the first casualty of the upheaval in the City after the bank decides to pull out of equity market-making.

November 1987: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation takes a 14.9 per cent stake for £383m.

February 1988: Midland announces a loss of £505 million, the first made by a British clearing bank, after writing off £1.02 billion of Third World debts.

May 1989: Sir Kit reveals plans for 2,000 job cuts at the bank by the end of the year. Midland's cost base remains the highest of the clearers.

February 1990: The bank confirms speculation that it is negotiating a full merger with Hongkong Bank.

August 1990: Sir Kit calls the half-year profit of £36 million unacceptable, announces the sales of Forward Trust, the finance house subsidiary, and pledges to cut 4,000 jobs.

October 1990: Abandons sale of Forward Trust — no offers.

December 1990: Midland and Hongkong Bank call off merger talks, blaming economic conditions.

March 1991: Sir Kit resigns.

Lilley to end duopoly between BT and Mercury

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

THE duopoly shared by British Telecom and Mercury Communications in United Kingdom telecommunications is to end.

In a White Paper, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, yesterday set out proposals for a reform that will allow customers to acquire telecoms services from competing providers using a variety of technologies.

He also announced price caps on British Telecom charges intended to benefit both business and domestic customers. The changes go well beyond proposals contained in a government consultative document published last November.

Mr Lilley said the government would henceforth consider all applications to carry telephone services over fixed links according to their merits. He said: "We will grant licences unless there are specific reasons to the contrary."

Cable-television companies and mobile-telephone operators will be encouraged to offer a full range of competing telephone services linked into wired networks. Within five years, most customers should be able to select which carrier to use for trunk calls.

In exchange for concessions on call packaging and provision of cable television services, BT has dropped its threat to force a reference to the monopolies commission.

Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, described the White Paper as a "satisfactory outcome. It's a good deal for customers. It's going to make BT more competitive".

BT was satisfied with the provisions on rebalancing, he said. The company had won more flexibility, guarantees that there would be no featherbedding for other companies, and no separate international price capping.

The changes were welcomed by Mercury. Peter van Cuylenburg, chief executive, said Mercury would be able to reach new customers through cable operators, the opportunity of equal access, under which callers will be able to select the trunk carrier, and through mobile telephones.

Because of provisions in the White Paper, Mercury should receive favourable treatment in gaining equal access.

British Rail Telecommunications, which has the largest private business telephone network in Britain was equally enthusiastic. Martyn Hart, marketing director, said: "Equal access will enable us to offer competitive long-distance services via our national trunk network."

The Union of Communications Workers said the White Paper would lead to the "wholesale invasion" of UK communications by overseas operators, and attacked the government for failing to use the opening of the UK market as a bargaining counter to win opportunities for British telecoms companies overseas.

The White Paper will also enable independent "retail" companies to bulk-buy telecommunications capacity and sell it in packages to business or domestic customers.

Leading article, page 15
One-side draw, page 27

New man's credentials for the top job

Walters: knighted in 1984

SIR Peter Walters spent almost ten years as chairman of BP. He was appointed in November 1981 and retired last March, having joined BP in 1954. His career with the oil company included two years in New York as vice-president of BP North America (our business staff writes).

Born in Birmingham in March 1931, Sir Peter's banking experience comes from eight years on National Westminster Bank's board, where he was a deputy chairman until 1989. He was tipped to succeed Lord Boardman as chairman in 1989, but is thought to demanded a reduction in the size of bank's board. The post was awarded to Lord Alexander of Weedon. Sir Peter was also a director of the Post Office.

Other posts include past-president of the General Council of British Shipping, of the Society of Chemical Industry and of the Institute of Manpower Studies.

In 1986, Sir Peter became president of the influential Institute of Directors and a managing trustee of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

He became a non-executive director of SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals group, and of Thorn EMI, the entertainment conglomerate, in 1989, becoming deputy chairman of the latter last year. In June, he was appointed non-executive chairman of Blue Circle Industries, the cement manufacturer, a job which he plans to keep.

Sir Peter was knighted in the New Year's Honours list in 1984. Married, Sir Peter has two sons and a daughter.

ECGD short list named

By Colin Narbrough, economics correspondent

THE government has picked its short list of bidders for the short-term business arm of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the official provider of export insurance.

Peter Lilley, trade secretary, who named the companies invited to tender for the department's Insurances Services Group, said the part privatisation would be by means of a competition under normal competition rules.

The short list is: Trade Indemnity; Assicurazioni Generali, the Italian insurer; Cobac of Belgium; a consortium comprising Eagle Star and the German insurer Gerling; NCM of Holland; and Sun Alliance.

British Coal ready to offer price guarantee

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

BRITISH Coal is prepared to sign supply contracts with Britain's two largest generating companies that guarantee price rises will remain within inflation, Malcolm Edwards, the corporation's commercial director, said.

Renewing his assault on alternative energy supplies in a speech to industrialists in Cheshire, Mr Edwards said ten-year contracts with British Coal were the electricity industry's best hope of avoiding inflationary price increases.

"If the price of coal is stable, the price of electricity will be stable. If it is not, then it has no chance of being stable," he said.

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, acknowledged this week that the future of the corporation depended upon stable long-term contracts with the electricity supply industry. The two largest generators, National Power and PowerGen, are keen to build gas-fired power stations and increase coal imports to cut costs.

However, Mr Edwards pointed to last week's 35 per cent rise in British Gas tariffs for gas supplies to new power stations as evidence that gas prices would rise as demand for power generation increased.

Increased coal imports would leave the generators vulnerable to short-term price fluctuations and changes in currency values, Mr Edwards said.

More than 600,000 applications for shares in the state-owned generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, had been counted ahead of today's 10am deadline for applications.

Advisers to the float reported a steady flow of completed forms and cheques to receiving banks. They believe that a clawback of shares provisionally allocated to institutions may well be triggered.

Public applications must be for more than 2.5 times the 28 per cent of the float set aside for the retail offer before the clawback is set in train.

The average application for the offer is £850. More than 1 million applications are expected in total.

The offer of the electricity supply companies last autumn received more than 12 million applications. But then people were allowed to seek shares in all 12 companies.

Only one application per person is permitted for a package of shares in both generators.

Making a mint in drugs

By Colin Campbell

FISONS, the diversified pharmaceutical, scientific equipment and horticulture group, reports "great success" with one of its drugs in Germany because it was given a mint flavour.

"If people want flavoured drugs so they taste better, we can make raspberry, pineapple, strawberry . . ." John Kerridge, chairman, said.

Fisons' pre-tax profits in 1990 rose from £169 million to £230.2 million, and net earnings by 20 per cent to 26.3p a share. The final dividend of 4.65p (3.85p) makes 7.5p (6.2p) for the year.

Mr Kerridge said potential buyers continue to ask about buying the group's horticulture division, "but it makes reasonable profits and has a legitimate role in our business profile", he said.

Tempus, page 27

HTV to be 'leaner and hungrier'

By Melinda Wittstock
media correspondent

HTV, which is seen as one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the forthcoming ITV franchise auction, is to restructure its board just two months before its licence application is due.

The ITV contractor for Wales and the West Country, which announced 205 redundancies in December, said yesterday that it will reduce the number of main board directors from 22 to 15.

Patrick Dromgoole, who is to retire as chief executive but retain his seat on the group board, said HTV has to become "leaner and hungrier" if it is to retain its broadcasting licence.

HTV will have cut its staff from 1,200 two years ago to just 750 by the end of this year.

Mr Dromgoole admitted he was "impressed" with the bidding team put together by HTV's main rival, Flextech, the Unlisted Securities Market oil services company, which owns the cable-television franchises for Sheffield and Oxford and 20 per cent of HIT Communications, the fast growing international distributor and licenser of 26 television series.

Flextech and HIT have linked with United Artists, the American film studio and cable operator, Agenda, the Welsh independent producer, and Associated Newspapers, publisher of *The Daily Mail*. Others tipped to be interested in the HTV region include MAI Broadcasting, the consortium put together by Michael Palin, formerly of Monty Python's Flying Circus, Roger Laughton, former BBC co-productions director, and Richard Branson's Virgin.

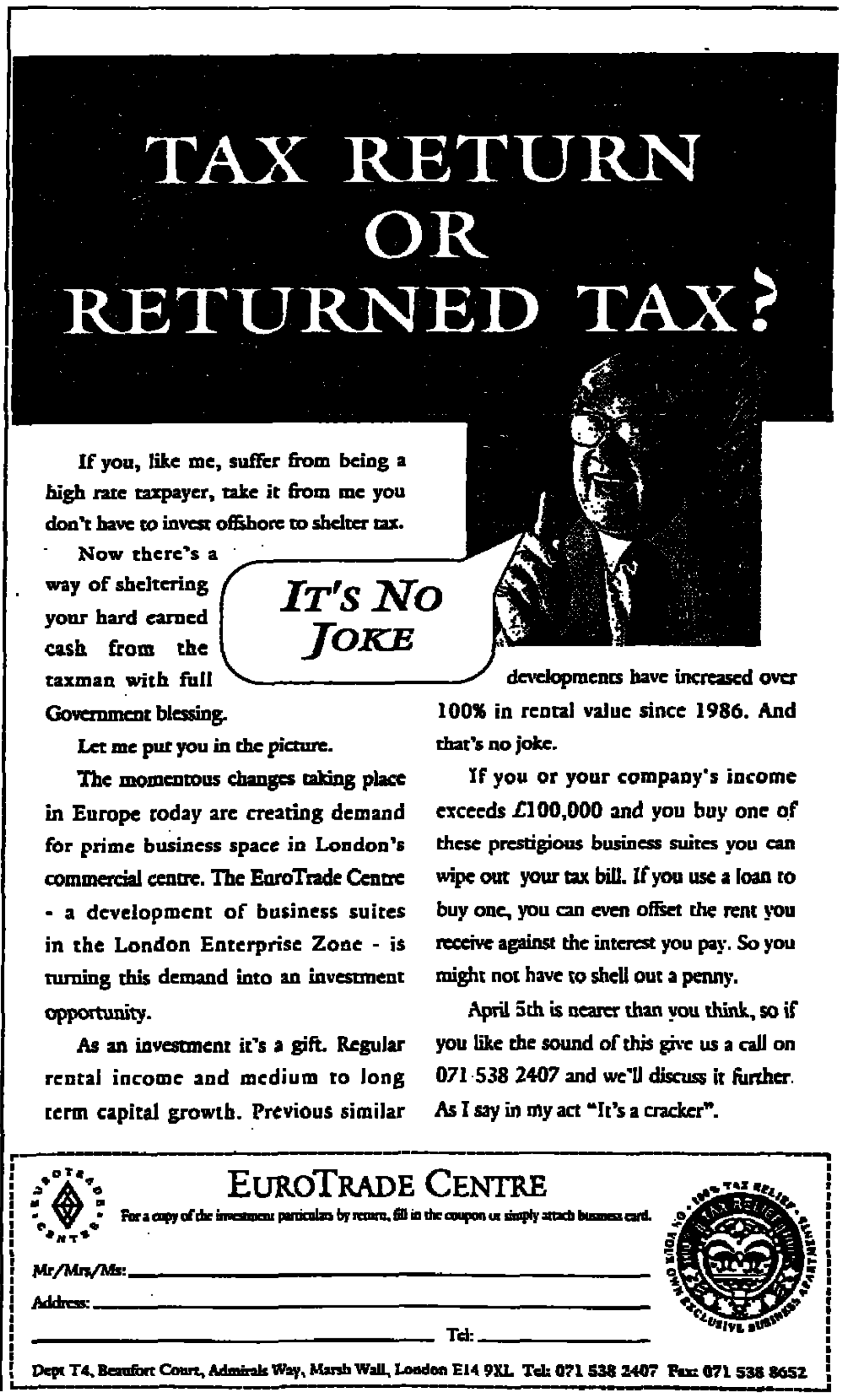
In HTV's board restructuring, Sir Melvyn Rosser, the chairman, and Mr Dromgoole, the chief executive, will retire. Mr Dromgoole will remain chairman of HTV International.

Louis Sherwood, a non-executive director on the main board, becomes chairman, and Charles Romaine, now managing director of TVMM, HTV's marketing subsidiary, becomes chief executive. Huw Davies will continue as group director of television.

Those retiring from the HTV board include Sir Geraint Evans and George McWatters, a former HTV chairman.

Four others — Mairwen Gwyn-Jones, Glyn Phillips, Ron Evans and Lord Oaksey — will step down from the main board but remain on subsidiary boards.

● Guy Libby has resigned as deputy chairman of TVS Entertainment, the ITV contractor for southern England. Mr Libby, also a fund manager, said he has decided to concentrate on his work at Glenfriars Unit Trust and Abingdon Management.



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Benlox gives warning of losses

BENLOX, the tiny industrial holding company that unsuccessfully bid £1.9 billion for Storehouse in 1987, said its 1990 results would show "very substantial" losses.

The group, whose shares have been suspended at 8p since April, made a statement at the request of the International Stock Exchange after shareholders had reported concern about the lack of information.

Bob Hankes-Drielsma, Benlox chairman, said the group expects to finalise the 1989 and 1990 accounts soon. Bank debts have been reduced to below £1 million and more reductions are expected.

Vantage pays £10m in merger

Jupiter Tarbutt Merlin, a privately owned fund manager, has reversed into Vantage Securities, the quoted investment trust. Vantage is paying £10.7 million for Jupiter, financed by 11.6 million new Vantage shares at 92.1p each. Vantage shares have been suspended at 86p.

Vantage's preliminary results for the year to end-December show a marginal decline in earnings per share to 3.51p and a 32.9 per cent decline in net asset value per share to 88.3p.

Willis Corroon ends venture

Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, is ending its Australasian and Canadian joint venture arrangements with Johnson & Higgins, the American broker.

Willis Corroon's holding in the Australian and New Zealand companies is raised to 100 per cent, while its 20 per cent holding in the Canadian company is being sold to Johnson & Higgins.

BTP buys ICI outlet for £3.5m

BTP, the chemicals and industrial group, is paying £3.5 million for Avalon Adhesives, the liquid adhesive operations of Avalon Chemical, an ICI subsidiary, by a placing of 1.9 million new BTP shares at 180p each. BTP plans a 5.45p final dividend for the year to end-March, making 8.4p for the year, up 7 per cent.

Net asset value falls at Wates

Net assets per share at Wates City of London slid from 300p to 250p in the year to end-December. Net rental income fell marginally to £14.8 million, but pre-tax profits jumped from £10.2 million to £30.5 million. The 2.96p (2.62p) final dividend makes a 3.73p (3.39p) total.

Micrelec alert

Shares in Micrelec, the petrol station equipment group, fell 46p to 115p after the company announced that an expected increase in second-half sales had not materialised. The board said results for the year to March would fall below expectations.

Pizza chain sale

Grand Metropolitan is selling Perfect Pizza, its British chain, to Scotts Hospitality, of Toronto, for an undisclosed sum, thought to be £5 million.

Recession helps push Volvo into £30m loss

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

VOLVO, the Swedish car maker, was hit hard by the recession in Britain, America and Sweden, its three largest markets, last year.

The company suffered a net loss of SwKr327 million (£30 million), compared with a SwKr6.65 billion profit in 1989.

The results were in line with expectations after the company announced a restructuring provision of SwKr2.45 billion in the third quarter. The programme involves large scale redundancies, mainly in Sweden where labour costs are among the highest in the world.

Last year, the company reduced its workforce by 2,300 from a previous level of 70,000, and another 1,500 workers have already received redundancy notices this year. Total cuts are expected to rise to 5,000.

However, Volvo's loss is not merely a result of the restructuring programme. Sales were down from SwKr91 billion to SwKr83.2 billion, because of general economic decline in the company's principal markets and because of reduced market shares within those markets.

The downturn affected cars, and to a smaller degree, trucks. Total operating income fell from SwKr4.82 billion to a SwKr567 million, while the car division posted an operating loss of SwKr855 million.

Most of the pre-provision earnings came from associated companies, in particular from Volvo's holding in Procordia, the pharmaceutical company. Total equity investments showed an increase from SwKr1 billion to SwKr1.3 billion.

Most European car manufacturer have suffered during the last year, except for the German producers who benefited from strong domestic growth.

Volvo's problems, however, appear more severe than those of its competitors.

Philip Ayton, motor analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "In the short to medium term they need to sort out their cost problems. It is a problem of the cost of labour as well as the productivity of labour."

The European car industry is likely to suffer setbacks during this decade when Japanese car companies will be allowed less restricted access to the European market.

Last year, in an attempt to defend its position, Volvo forged a strategic alliance with Renault, the French state-owned car producer, under which both companies have a 45 per cent cross shareholding in their respective truck businesses, with smaller cross holdings in respect of the car divisions.

It is expected that the alliance, which cost Volvo SwKr6.5 billion, will result in mutual cost saving within a few years.

Volvo was also at a disadvantage last year because it had not introduced a new model for some time. Later this year, the company is expected to introduce a mid-range model which is intended, eventually, to replace the current 200-range.

Despite the loss, Volvo maintained the dividend at SwKr15.50 per share.

Expamet drops 6% to £12.8m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A SUBSTANTIAL downturn in second-half trading at Expamet International, the building products, security and industrial group, has resulted in a 6 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £12.8 million for the year to end December.

Turnover rose 5.6 per cent to £159 million, with increases in the security and industrial divisions. The security operations held their profits steady, at £6.3 million, while the industrial division saw profits fall by £1.2 million to £2.5 million. The building division bucked the sector trend with profits up 10 per cent to £4 million.

A £4.9 million extraordinary charge relates to the costs associated with the closure of a number of subsidiaries. In 1989, the company recorded a £7.1 million extraordinary profit from the disposal of subsidiaries. The rationalisation programme should be completed this year.

The interest charge rose to £4 million from £3.6 million because of additional borrowings taken on to finance a deferred portion of the £49 million consideration for the 1989 acquisition of Radionics. Interest cover fell from 4.5 times at the interim stage to 4.2 times at the year end.

Jeremy Beasley, the chairman, said: "Political uncertainty and the depressed economic environment have led to difficult markets so far in 1991. However, we are continuing to increase market share in our three business sectors and to ensure that our operations are run in the most cost-effective manner."

A final 6.2p dividend makes 10.38p for the year, 3.8 per cent up on the 10p for 1989.

Stepping down: Sir George will stay as Inchcape chairman

Turnbull to split Inchcape roles

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SIR George Turnbull is to give up his chief executive role at Inchcape, the international business services and marketing group, in 1992. He plans to stay on as chairman, however, until 1997.

Charles Mackay, aged 49, chairman and chief executive of Inchcape Pacific, the Far East subsidiary, will succeed him as chief executive. Mr Mackay has been appointed group managing director from January 1, 1992, and will become chief executive later that year.

Sir George, aged 64, denies that the move is a response to the shift in City opinion against public companies combining the roles of chairman and chief executive. "I always felt there was no harm in having the positions combined while the group was being reorganised. It enabled us to make the necessary changes more quickly, for example. But once that was done, and we had a strong, healthy company, it would be time to split the roles. We took that decision last October."

Sir George added that Mr Mackay had been earmarked as his successor since his arrival from Chloride in July 1986.

The appointment will be accompanied by a reorganisation of Inchcape's worldwide operations. From January 1, the group will be structured on a global basis in the areas of motors, marketing and distribution, services and resources. Each will report to a director in London.

Carlton appoints Edelman

By OUR CITY STAFF

MICHAEL Green is handing over the day-to-day responsibility at the top of Carlton Communications, the television to video services group, to Keith Edelman, currently managing director of Ladbroke Group.

Mr Green retains the job of executive chairman but the chief executive post will remain vacant, while Mr Edelman will be managing director from the end of the month. A spokesman for Carlton, which said at the end of last year it was considering splitting the top two roles, denied that the move had come as a result of institutional shareholder pressure.

"Keith will be taking over the day-to-day responsibility for the operating companies, allowing me as executive chairman to concentrate on the long-term strategy and structure of Carlton," Mr Green said.

Pearson sells stake in Elsevier

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

PEARSON, the publishing to china conglomerate, has abandoned its strategic alliance with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group, by selling its 22 per cent stake to Goldman Sachs for placing in the market. The bought deal, at a discount of about 8 per cent to Elsevier's market price, will bring Pearson £313 million and a profit of £84 million.

Lord Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, which publishes the *Financial Times*, said it wanted to redeploy the funds into businesses under its direct control. Initially, they will be used to cut borrowing, which were £410 million at the end of 1990. Pearson shares gained 23p to 749p.

Elsevier said it would retain for now its 8.8 per cent stake in Pearson, most of which it acquired in the initial exchange in September 1988. Cornelis Alberti, Elsevier's finance director, made it clear, however, that Elsevier would rethink the stake in its ambitions to extend into English language publishing. "Either it should be considerably more, or less," he said.

The alliance was forged after The News Corporation, which owns *The Times*, built up a 20 per cent stake in Pearson, which has since fallen sharply. Robert Maxwell's interests also had a substantial stake in Elsevier at that time, since sold.

Pearson and Elsevier aimed to co-operate in building joint interests and gave themselves seven years to agree a full merger. The latter was abandoned a year ago and little has come from co-operation.

Lord Blakenham said yesterday: "Elsevier is a marvellous company, but it has not been possible to find a means of turning the engagement into the marriage we had hoped for."

Derek Terrington, publishing analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said dissolution of the alliance was inevitable. "The motives were entirely defensive, though dressed up in strategic clothes. There were no commercial fruits but Pearson shareholders have done well out of the investment."

The sale will have little effect on Pearson's quoted earnings. Next month the group is expected to report pre-tax profits between £240 and £260 million for 1990.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Polypipe seeks £13.6m to fund acquisitions

POLYPIPE, the manufacturer of plastic plumbing and drainage systems, is raising £13.6 million through a cash placing and open offer at 150p a share on a one-for-7.25 basis. The proceeds will be used to help fund three acquisitions made recently and to provide working capital and meet capital expenditure requirements for the three companies. Polypipe also is negotiating to acquire a fourth business.

The company unveiled pre-tax profits ahead from £5.08 million to £5.27 million in the six months to end-December. Sales edged up from £33.7 million to £33.9 million. Earnings per share climbed from 4.92p to 5.05p. The interim dividend was raised to 1.2p, against 1.0p last time. Polypipe shares eased 2p to 163p.

86% stake for BDDP

BOULET Dru Dupuy Petit, the French advertising group that made a recommended bid for Broad Street, the ailing public relations firm, now speaks for 85.79 per cent of Broad Street. The bid valued Broad Street shares at 1p and the firm, which includes Lynn Franks, Financial Dynamics and City PR, at £500,000. BDDP had already owned 38.67 per cent of Broad Street.

Ashley buys German firms

ASHLEY Group, the food retailer and window blind group, has acquired two German window blind businesses for DM16.5 million. (£5.7 million). Ashley is buying the business of Haller, a distributor based near Stuttgart, and the share capital of Boden Jalousien, a producer based near Frankfurt. Ashley paid £3.5 million on completion and £2.2 million is due next February 28.

Templeton down 1%

TEMPLETON, Galbraith & Hansberger, the fund management group, has reported pre-tax profits down 1 per cent to $63.1 million for the year ended December 31.

Total funds under management at year end were $15.9 billion compared with $17.5 billion at the end of 1989. Of these assets, $1.9 billion are additions through mutual fund sales and new funds. Redemptions were $1.4 billion and market depreciation was $2.1 billion. A final dividend of 10 cents per share makes a total of 15 cents for the year, an increase of 15 per cent over 1989.

Clinton rises 46%

CLINTON Cards, the greetings card retailer, increased pre-tax profits by 46 per cent to £5.02 million in the year to January 26, on sales up 54 per cent to £59 million. But the group's shares fell 12p to 262p after Don Lewin, chairman, said prospects were difficult to predict. Earnings per share went up 22 per cent to 20.4p. The final dividend is 3.75p for a total of 5.25p, an increase of 24 per cent.

Watmoughs ahead 14.4%

WATMOUGHS, the printing group, made pre-tax profits of £11.6 million in 1990, an increase of 14.4 per cent on 1989. Sales rose 18 per cent to £102 million. Interest payable more than doubled to £2.24 million. Earnings per share rose 9.2 per cent to 32.45p and the final dividend is 7.5p, making a total for the year of 10.25p, an increase of 20 per cent. Shares rose 5p to 365p.

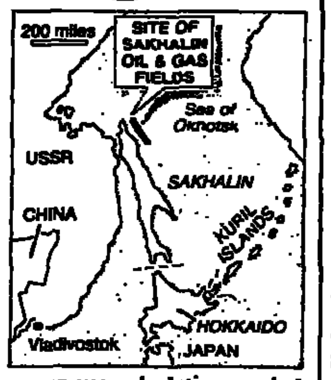
Jardine decision soon

HONG Kong's stock exchange said a decision on whether Jardine Matheson Holdings had breached listing rules would be taken soon by the listing committee. Francis Yuen, exchange chief executive, said the committee would look at whether Jardine had bought back its own shares knowingly and intentionally, but the exchange said his remarks were not meant to confirm or imply Jardine had breached regulations.

Mr Yuen said if Jardine was willing to divest itself of some of the holding repurchased through Connaught Investors, the move would affect the exchange's decision.

Russia offers oil deal to foreigners

By OUR EUROPEAN
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT



THE Soviet Union is planning to award a $4.5 billion contract to a consortium of international oil companies to develop an offshore oil and gas field north of the Sakhalin Islands, off the eastern coast of Siberia near Japan.

The country needs to develop its oil reserves, since output is falling at a rate of about 10 per cent a year.

Anatoly Cherny, director general of Sakhalin Oil and Gas, said Mitsui and Co, Marathon and McDermott International, are preparing a feasibility study, but there are other American bidders that he declined to name. The fields contain 630 million barrels of oil and 140.5 billion cubic metres of gas. Based on a seven-year depletion period, this would mean an output of about 200,000 barrels per day.

Although this is less than 2 per cent of Soviet oil production of just over 11 million bpd last year, the deal is significant because it allows participation of foreign companies.

PolyGram's rise to £108m lifts Philips

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

POLYGRAM, the Philips subsidiary and the world's third largest record company, unveiled a 7.2 per cent rise in net profits to 357 million guilders (£108 million) in 1990. Sales rose 27.9 per cent to Fl5.25 billion.

The results present a glimmer of hope in an otherwise gloomy outlook for Philips, which last week reported a record Fl4.2 billion loss. Polygram, in which Philips has an 80 per cent stake, is part of the group's consumer electronics division and, judging from the results, one of its strongest income generators.

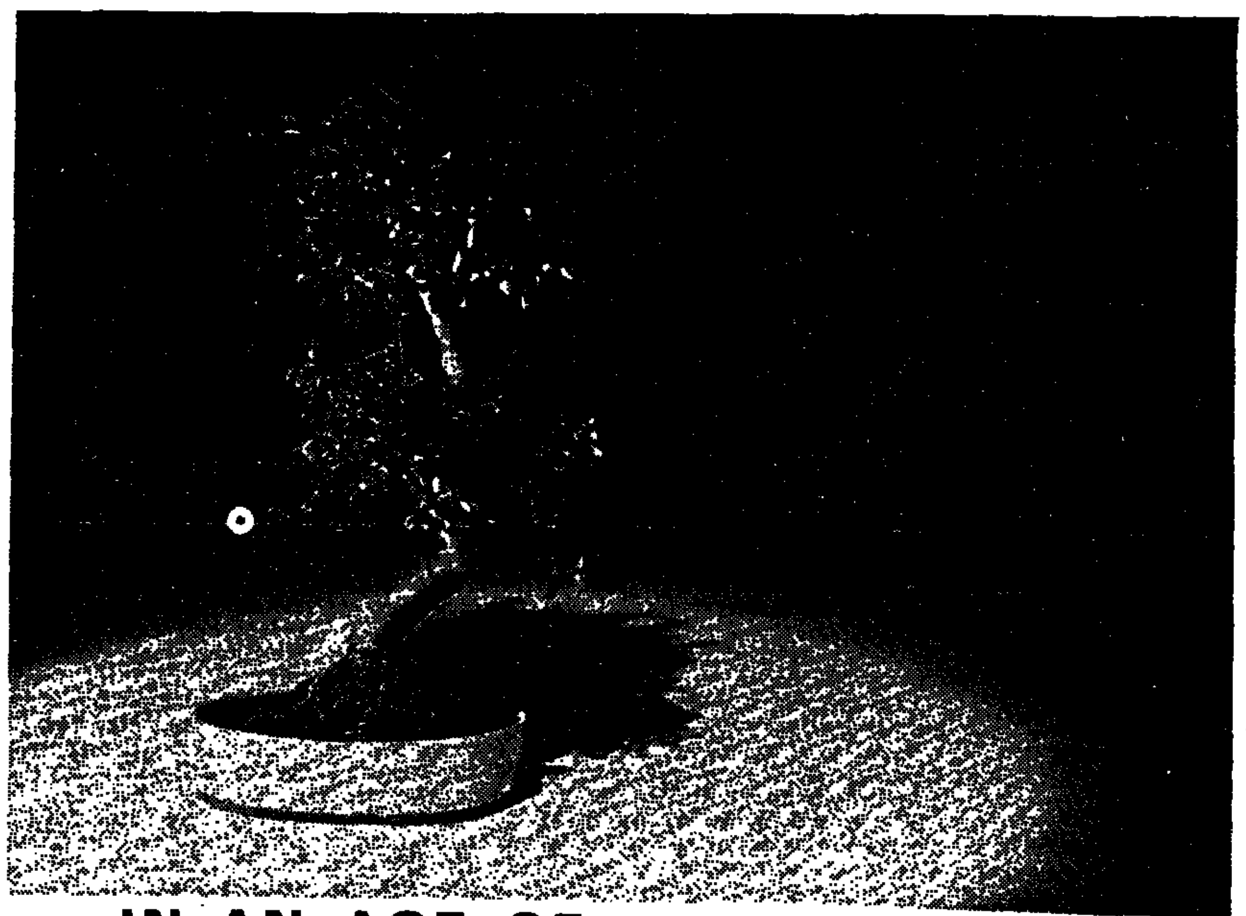
PolyGram's main record labels include Deutsche Grammophon, Decca and Polydor. Decca's *Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras in Concert* achieved a world sales record for a classical music album last year, with more than 5 million sold. Another PolyGram album, *The Essential Pavarotti*, sold more than 1 million. The company's popular recordings include albums by Elton John and the Scorpions.

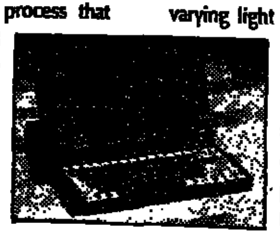
PolyGram claims to have increased its world market share from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent during the year. The company said sales were "positively influenced" by the acquisitions of A&M Records and Island Records.

The company proposed a dividend of Fl0.5 per share, its first dividend as a quoted company, after 20 per cent of the equity was floated in December 1989.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ADMIRAL (Fin) Pre-tax: £3.28m (£2.65m) EPS: 19.4p (16.2p) Div: 2.88p, mkg 4.2p	Last time's total dividend was 3.5p. Turnover increased by 33 per cent to £21.2m. Cash position at year-end was £2.81m (£2.3m).	**INTERLINK EXPRESS** (Int) Pre-tax: £3.1m (£3.58m) EPS: 12.17p (14.28p) Div: 4.125p (4.125p)	Turnover grew to £25.5m (£23.5m). Board reports that the outlook for business in Britain continues to be discouraging.
WYEVALE GARDEN (Fin) Pre-tax: £2.10m (£1.64m) EPS: 8.6p (6.3p) Div: 2.25p, mkg 3.375p	Last time's total dividend was 2.7p, adjusted. Turnover £18.25m (£16.27m). Board confident of continued growth in sales and profits.	**PACER SYSTEMS** (Fin) Pre-tax: $1.56m ($1.20m) EPS: $0.18 ($0.14) Div: 3.5c, mkg 6.5c (6c)	Turnover advanced 11 per cent to $27.9m. Orders stood at $66.8m ($82.8m). Pacer's military markets remain strong.
METAL BULLETIN (Fin) Pre-tax: £1.64m (£1.41m) EPS: 12.2p (10.1p) Div: 4.5p, mkg 6.9p (6p)	Turnover £10.8m (£9.97m). Extraordinary charge of £29,900. Board says 1991's profits will be biased towards second half.	**ROSS GROUP** (Fin) Pre-tax: £989,000 EPS: 4.3p (LPS: 5.0p) Div: 0.75p, mkg 1.25p	Company made a pre-tax loss of £485,000 last time. Turnover advanced to £20.1m (£6.14m). There was no dividend last year.
FREEMAN GROUP (Fin) Pre-tax: £2.51m (£2.46m) EPS: 26.6p (28.0p) Div: 5.5p, mkg 8.5p	Last time's total dividend was 8.1p. Profits were boosted by an exceptional item of £197,000. Turnover climbed to £77m (£52.8m).	**WHITTINGTON** (Fin) Pre-tax: Loss £647,000 LPS: 2.1p (EPS: 4.0p) Div: Nil (1.2p)	Last time's profit was £1.28m. Extraordinary loss of £5.52m, mainly relating to the sale of JW Bonser.





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Midland begins a new chapter

COMMENT

Sir Kit McMahon's swift departure from Midland Bank is being seen in the City as the penalty frequently paid by those business leaders who place too many eggs in a single strategic basket. Sir Kit's solution to the problems of Midland had a grand sweep to it. The ill-fated plan to merge with Hongkong Bank had many attractions for both parties. But when it fell apart last year Midland was left exposed with far too many long standing problems still unresolved.

When he arrived at Midland, with a welcome mat supplied by the Bank of England, Sir Kit could not claim that his inheritance was exactly unblemished. Midland's management had taken some highly questionable strategic decisions, notably the disastrous acquisition of Crocker Bank in America. The unwinding of the Crocker involvment left Midland's balance sheet weighed down by the heavy ballast of non-performing third world debt arranged by the US bank. Some early asset disposals helped. But with the benefit of hindsight the sale programme did not go anything like far enough. Latterly the disposal route to self-improvment has been effectively shut off through lack of buyers at anything like acceptable prices.

Tactical thinking was little better and an unhealthy level of costs, especially in the domestic banking operations, was left barely scratched for far too long. Sir Kit would say that corrective action on costs was in hand while the Hong Kong links were being strenghtened in preparation for a full marriage. But he is at odds here with most analysts. It was not until last year that the axe was wielded in a meaningful way.

Even today, with some of the benefits of reorganisation starting to appear, Midland's trading profit per employee is substantially below that of Barclays. Yet at the top line, Midland's employees manage to generate more income than their Barclays's counterparts.

Sir Kit has also been under fire for retaining the roles of both chairman and chief executive for far too long when Midland had demonstrably far too many problems for one man to deal with. Again, Sir Kit's preference for the Hong Kong merger provides at least part of the explanation. In effect he had been keeping the chief executive role under his own wing in order to pass it to Hong Kong bank chief William Purves when the merger was completed.

Yet Sir Kit's failures were nothing like sufficient to justify a City-led campaign against him that reached ferocious intensity. Though the recession has led to bad debt provisions for Midland and its high street rivals on a scale that was unimagined 18 months ago, the bank's balance sheet is lacking only by reference to the generally superior standards of British banking prudence. On any international scale, Midland is well financed. In direct comparison to leading American and Japanese banks it is exceptionally so.

It must be said too that though Midland has not provided against its third world debts on quite the scale of Barclays or NatWest, it is possible that they have provided over generously. Some of the clearers have managed to dispose of large amounts of thord world debt on terms which allowed sizeable write-backs of provisions.

By his decision to cut Midland's dividend, a sensible and realistic conclusion, and to depart in three months, Sir Kit has made the task of his successors much easier. They are able to build on the first signs of recovery in the domestic bank, where trading profits have begun to rise. The new management team is untainted by past mistakes, and well-placed to restore external confidence.

Financially, Midland has large amounts of tax relief to look forward to, while the end of the treasury book mismatch should alone boost profits by more than £100 million this year. This year will be tough, but the next chapter in Midland's saga is at last hopeful.

Saatchi safe

Saatchi and Saatchi's efforts to avert financial disaster could so easily have ended in tears. As things have turned out, the solution will be painful but not terminal.

The group's 20 principal bankers have made their position clear. Unless the proposals now before shareholders are accepted, Saatchi will run out of credit and the receivers will be called in. In theory, the credit crunch will not come until 1993, when Saatchi would be forced to redeem an ill-fated Euroconvertible issue at a cost of £21 million.

In practice, the bankers would have lost their confidence and their patience long before then. Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who came in last year as chief executive, correctly decided to go for a swift solution rather than allowing Saatchi's to be painted into a corner.

It shares the pain evenly and shareholders at least are guaranteed a stake in a solvent business. Europreference and UK preference stock will be replaced by ordinary shares and there will be £60 million of equity finance, £5 million of which will be invested by Saatchi senior management.

Shareholders should give the scheme their blessing. They cannot expect much by way of dividends in the next few years. But there are still some excellent advertising businesses inside the group whose quality will eventually shine through. At these levels Saatchi shares are flat on their back and could prove a worthwhile investment in time.

A one-sided draw spells duopoly defeat for BT

DUOPOLY is dead. The government's long-awaited decision to end the two-horse race in the telecommunications market between British Telecom and Mercury carries implications for the future of telecoms in Britain, and for the current players, especially BT.

The outcome of the duopoly review is largely a matter of Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, sticking to his last. The review's conclusion demonstrates the government's refusal to be swayed. Some telecom analysts saw the review as a sham: they were convinced that key policy decisions on the ending of the duopoly were taken before the government's discussion document was published last November, and that, accordingly, yesterday's outcome was hardly a surprise.

Mr Lilley would deny this; but the thrust of the White Paper, *Competition and Choice: Telecommunications Policy for the 1990s*, is undeniably close to that of the consultative document. The government wanted to end the duopoly; the duopoly is to be ended. The government wanted to be able to offer new applications to to run trunk networks; the government is to do so. The government wanted to maintain regulatory price constraints on BT; they are to be maintained.

BT, though, does not view the outcome of the review as a loss. Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, said yesterday that BT would not proceed with its threat to refer the whole issue to the monopolies commission; an indication that the company does not regard the outcome as so disastrous that it has to take this drastic and risky step.

Indeed, Mr Vallance believes the review has accepted four key principles: rebalancing of tariffs; greater price flexibility; no feather-bedding of competitors; and no price-capping of international calls. Yet each of the principles identified by Mr Vallance has conditions attached. There is acceptance of rebalancing, but not until mid-1993. There is greater flexibility on tariffs, but only in stages over the next five years. No feather-bedding, but equal access to telecom systems as soon as possible. No price-capping internationally, but a 10 per cent cut in international call prices.

Will not be swayed: Peter Lilley, the trade secretary

If that looks anything like a draw, it is a draw in favour of the government, and of Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of Oftel, the industry's regulator. The review offers little relief for BT from Sir Bryan's merciless scrutiny, which has hardened into a public row between him and Mr Vallance. Indeed, Sir Bryan made it plain yesterday that he saw a continuing role for regulation. In a statement on BT pricing, he saw the duopoly review as a crucial turning point between the first phase for the industry of what he called "managed competition" towards one of "more open competition".

But even the limited, regulated concept of a move "towards" only "more open" competition is likely to alter significantly what has been BT's pre-eminence in the market. BT's market share is in excess of 95 per cent; even with the high investment cost and long lead times of setting up new business in the sector, such a level of dominance can hardly be what the government wanted when it originally privatised BT back in 1984.

Cable and Wireless' Mercury, up to now BT's only competitor, has taken seven years and more than £1 billion to manage a market niche of about 3.5 per cent. Clearly, despite British Rail being the first company to respond eagerly and hungrily to yesterday's announcement, any major change in BT's market share will be a long time coming.

It is equally apparent that Mr Lilley is determined to achieve a change in the market. That will mean over the longer term a shift in BT's fortunes: it cannot but help losing significantly from the impact of increased competition.Equal access alone could have a devastating impact on BT's market share; when equal access was introduced in America, it caused AT&T's share to fall 23 per cent.

Analysts believe any such change is unlikely to affect BT profits materially for at least three years. Last month, quarterly results showed that the recession was already impeding growth, and though pre-tax profits were 13 per cent higher at £737 million, BT made it clear it would be looking for further real savings.

This week's cut of 6,500 telephone operators' jobs was only the latest evidence of that, coming on top of job cuts last year, and with more to come in 1991. Sir Bryan praises BT's efforts to reduce its costs by improving efficiency, but analysts such as Salomon Brothers believe BT could reduce its 240,000 staff by as many as 100,000 in the long term, saving up to £1.5 billion annually.

BT is likely to try to seek new commercial opportunities to improve its revenue, but the job cuts will continue. If the telecom market is to buffeted by the blast of the winds of full competition, then BT is likely to face a bumpy ride over the next few years.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Fisons keeps healthy habit

TEMPUS

FISONS' habit of turning out annual growth rates of 20 per cent plus is legion, and results for last year are no exception.

While there must come a time when Fisons loses its magic touch, that looks like being some way off yet. The company came through last year, when recession was snapping at industry's heels, much as expected and pre-tax profits were £230.2 million (£169 million). The 1990 return on captial employed was 37.3 per cent (32.9 per cent).

The total dividend is up 21 per cent to 7.5p (6.2p), with a 4.65p (3.85p) final. In the past year, the shares have outperformed by 29 per cent. Higher profits partly follow improved productivity, partly from buying VG Instruments from BATs, and partly from Treasury management.

On a net debt of £116 million, and helped by one month's use of rights funds, Fisons generated £900,000 of net interest received. It also used its high cashflow balances to take advantage of relatively high British interest rates, although this year could see Fisons become a payer of net interest. There were higher profits from the core divisions — pharmaceutical, scientific equipment and horticulture.

Profit estimates of £260 million for this year put the shares at 441p on a rating of 14.8 times. For its proven ability to perform on the profit, dividend and share price fronts, Fisons looks cheap.

Raine Industries

REGIONAL housebuilding is clearly something of a curate's egg. Monday brought news of a 13 per cent increase in unit sales at Persimmon which, despite its northern origins, now has a wide spread of regional subsidiaries.

But it is a different picture at Hassall Homes, the housebuilding arm of Raine Industries. In the six months to end-December, unit sales at Hassall, which operates in the Midlands, North and Scotland, fell 13 per cent.

Hassall's performance was just one reason Raine's interim figures were mildly disappointing. Pre-tax profits of £8.2 million were 27 per cent down on the period in 1990, although the interim dividend was held at 2p.

The figures should inject a note of realism into a stock market that is in danger of getting carried away with anticipation of better times to come.

With the outlook for Raine's non-housebuilding businesses far from encouraging, a decline in profits looks inevitable this year, with £20-21 million pencilled in.

At 128p, that puts the shares on a multiple of about 13. High enough for now.

Hays

HAYS, as the owner of the biggest recruitment agency for the construction industry, always knew it was important to have other strings to its bow.

So the recession-led slump in profits at Montrose, which dragged the personnel division's profits down from £10.3 million to £6.7 million in the six months to last December, has been compensated for elsewhere.

Hays is lifting its interim dividend 13 per cent, underlining the board's view that a recession is good for business, despite the virtual standstill in the half-yearly pre-tax figure at £27.5 million.

The 28 per cent surge in the commercial profit to £6.9 million reflected the rest of industry's urgent need to save costs.

The document exchange network is pulling in new customers by the minute, the records and data storage operations advanced by more than 30 per cent, while Data Express rose 26 per cent.

Personnel, having maintained its margins, should pick up the minute construction turns the corner and, meanwhile, can expect a boost from the Kuwaiti rebuilding programme. Analysts look for a marginal improvement to £58 million pre-tax this year, with good growth further on, leaving the shares, at 122p, or 12 times earnings, with solid, medium term attractions.

HAYS. WHERE STRENGTH LIES IN BREADTH.

Hays is one of the largest business services groups in the country.

With over 30 different companies active in distribution, personnel and commercial services, our customer base is both wide and diverse.

For example, in Distribution Hays provides a specialised food distribution service for Tesco and Waitrose, a nationwide home delivery service for Marks & Spencer, as well as packaged and bulk chemical distribution for B.P. and ICI, amongst others.

Through Hays Personnel, over 170,000 permanent and temporary vacancies were filled in 1990.

Whilst in Commercial Services, Britdoc provides a countrywide overnight business mail service. Orginally designed for the legal profession it has expanded to include over 20,000 subscribers operating in areas such as retailing, banking and the travel industry.

It is the breadth of our three core activities that gives us strength, even in the present financial climate, and ensures that we are well placed to take advantage of better conditions when they come. One area of activity supports another, contributing to our Group's continued steady growth.

INTERIM FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
Half Year to 31 December 1990 (unaudited)

	1989	*1990*	
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£27.3M*	£27.5M	+1%
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE	4.70P*	4.74P	+1%
NET DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE	1.15P	1.30P	+13%

Hays
THE BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP

*PROFORMA ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CAPITAL STRUCTURE FOLLOWING THE LISTING IN OCTOBER 1989 HAD EXISTED SINCE 1 JULY 1989. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A COPY OF THE 1991 INTERIM STATEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID BECKLEY, HAYS PLC, HAYS HOUSE, MILLMEAD, GUILDFORD, SURREY GU2 5HJ TELEPHONE 0483 302203. THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY TOUCHE ROSS & CO WHO IS AUTHORISED TO CARRY ON INVESTMENT BUSINESS BY THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bit different at The Mirror

IF THE senior executive of a prospective public company were to be shown the door suddenly, within weeks of a flotation on the stock market, with the possibility of union unrest thrown in for good measure, most merchant bank advisers would be urging at least a temporary delay in the proceedings. But Ian McIntosh, head of corporate finance and deputy chief executive at Samuel Montagu, the issuing house for Mirror Group Newspapers, insists that that scenario will make no difference to MGN's intended stock market debut, due to take place in late April or early May. Thus, six or eight weeks from impact day, some City eyebrows have been raised following the departure this week of Roy Greenslade, Mirror editor, his replacement by "acting editor" Charles Wilson, former editor of *The Times*, and currently in New York trying to buy the *New York Daily News* for Robert Maxwell, owner of MGN, and a resolution passed by in-house National Union of Journalists members, criticising their proprietor. "I suppose newspapers are a bit different," concedes McIntosh. "This is obviously something we have been aware of but it is not going to upset our plans." The flotation, also being handled by Smith New Court and Clifford Chance, is expected to value MGN at up to £600 million, with between 40 and 45 per cent of the company being offered for sale.

MIDLAND, long proud of its advertising slogan as "The Listening Bank", is having to face up to a new nickname. Wits in the Square Mile, wary of its future prospects, have dubbed it "The Listing Bank".

Kept on ice

AN ANTARCTIC expedition is being planned by Vickers Defence Systems early next year, to recover one of the first tracked vehicles ever made. The vehicle is a motorised sledge, built by Vickers, and believed to be 600 ft under water in McMurdo Sound, where it fell while being unloaded from a ship on an expedition led by Captain Robert Scott. The sledge, which Peter McKenzie, of Vickers Defence Systems PR department, described as more like a tank, was one of three taken to the Antarctic by Scott. Next year's expedition might now be expanded to include the recovery of the 80-year-old fuselage of a monoplane, one of the first aeroplanes built by Vickers. The monoplane was used in the Australian expedition, led by Sir Douglas Mawson, in 1911.

McKenzie hopes that the rescue operation will be a joint venture with the British armed services. Brigadier Patrick Cordingly, commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, still on duty in the Gulf, and author of a biography of Captain Oates, who died with Scott in the Antarctic, has expressed an interest in particpating. The brigadier "is a friend of mine," says McKenzie. "He has asked to be kept informed in the hope that he might be able to take part."

Star turn

ONLY a brave man would buy shares because the planets told him to. This has not, however, deterred Jules Lewicki, a former *Time Out* journalist turned market forecaster, who claims to have predicted four recent stock market trends on the strength of inter-planetary movements. Such cycle theory is popular in America, usually with those who either believe that the world is flat or claim to have been visited by aliens, but is proving slow to catch on in Britain. Alarmingly, Lewicki, who has not yet aspired to a plush Bond Street address despite his "inside" knowledge (his office is in Epsom, Surrey), claims to have built up a loyal following among professional financial advisers and a handful of private investors who deal in traded options. He is now predicting March 16, or thereabouts, as the date when share prices will go into a sharp decline. Why that date? Because the earth will then be midway between Jupiter and Saturn. You have been warned.

Avon calling

LIFE goes on for the City's old hands, even if they no longer earn their living within the narrow streets of the Square Mile. And, if anything, life as a regional stockbroker has considerably more to offer these days — a view shared by Sandy Evans, who this week joined Albert E Sharp in Bristol as an associate director. Evans, aged 50, a long-serving private client broker, started his career with Roger Mortimer, his uncle's firm, in 1958, straight from school, and in 1970 joined George Henderson, later to become Henderson Crosthwaite. "Those were the days when your word was your bond," says Evans, who in 1982 unsuccessfully ran for membership of the stock exchange council before leaving London to join A H Cobbold in Southampton. "Today you hide behind a phone and a television screen. It's no longer a matter of facing a chap eyeball to eyeball." He was, until he accepted Sharp's offer, regional director of Cobbold Roach in Taunton, just down the road from his Bridgwater home.

CAROL LEONARD

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares surge higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 25. Dealings end March 8. §Contango day March 11. Settlement day March 18.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Brixton	Property	
2	Travis Perkins	Building,Roads	
3	FR Group	Motors,Aircraft	
4	Ocean Group	Transport	
5	Welsh Water	Water	
6	Young 'A'	Breweries	
7	Rentokil	Chemicals,Plas	
8	Nu-Swift	Industrials L-R	
9	Body Shop	Drapery,Stores	
10	Booker	Foods	
11	Wolseley	Industrials S-Z	
12	Delta	Electricals	
13	Walker, Greenbank	Industrials S-Z	
14	Frogmore	Property	
15	CRT Gp	Textiles	
16	Chamberlin & Hill	Industrials A-D	
17	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building,Roads	
18	Bank Of Ireland	Banks,Discount	
19	BTR	Industrials A-D	
20	Galliford	Building,Roads	
21	Farnell Elect	Electricals	
22	Charter Cons	Industrials A-D	
23	Greycoat	Property	
24	Eurotherm	Electricals	
25	Attwoods	Building,Roads	
26	Brown (N)	Drapery,Stores	
27	Slough Estates	Property	
28	Tomkins	Industrials S-Z	
29	Meyer Int	Building,Roads	
30	Bunzl	Paper,Print,Adv	
31	Marks Spencer	Drapery,Stores	
32	Unilever	Industrials S-Z	
33	Watmough	Paper,Print,Adv	
34	Utd Biscuits	Foods	
35	Taylor Woodrow	Building,Roads	
36	Perry gp	Motors,Aircraft	
37	Johnson Matthey	Industrials E-K	
38	Power Corp	Property	
39	Tesco	Foods	
40	Mitie Gp	Industrials L-R	
41	Microfilm Repro	Electricals	
42	IMI	Industrials E-K	
43	Ferguson Intl	Paper,Print,Adv	
44	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

Portfolio PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND

£4,000

Claims required for +57 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990/91 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
95⅞	89⅞	Treas	3% 1991	96⅞	..	3.0	9.580
99⅞	90⅞	Fund	5¾% 1987-91	99⅞	● ..	6.77	10.958
97⅞	87⅞	Treas	8% 1991	97⅞	..	8.18	11.170
98⅞	94⅞	Treas C	10% 1991	99¼	..	10.0	11.999
99⅞	89⅞	Exch	11% 1991	99⅞	..	11.0	11.474
99⅞	92⅞	Treas	11¾% 1991	99⅞	..	0.00	0.000
93	82⅞	Treas	3% 1992	93	..	3.22	8.995
97	85⅞	Treas	8% 1992	96⅞	..	8.25	10.991
99⅞	90⅞	Treas	10% 1992	99	..	10.0	11.048
99⅞	85⅞	Treas C	10½% 1992	99⅞	..	10.5	10.962
102⅞	92	Exch	12¼% 1992	101⅞	..	12.0	10.985
101⅞	93¼	Treas	12¾% 1992	101⅞	..	12.5	11.107
104	96⅞	Exch	13½% 1992	103⅞	● ..	13.0	10.758
82⅞	81⅞	Fund	6% 1993	82⅞	● ..	6.4	9.236
99⅞	88⅞	Treas	8¼% 1993	95⅞	-⅛	8.5	10.551
99⅞	87	Treas	10% 1993	99⅞	-⅛	10.1	10.573
104⅞	93⅞	Treas	12½% 1993	103⅞	-⅛	12.0	10.515
103⅞	84	Treas	13¾% 1993	107⅞	-⅛	12.7	10.473
95⅞	84⅞	Treas	8½% 1994	95¼	..	8.9	10.365
99⅞	82⅞	Treas	9% 1994	96⅞	..	9.3	10.198
99⅞	84	Treas	10% 1994	99⅞	..	10.0	10.250
105⅞	94⅞	Exch	12½% 1994	103⅞	..	11.7	10.307
109	94⅞	Exch	13½% 1994	109⅞	+⅛	12.4	10.325
111⅞	99⅞	Treas	14½% 1994	110⅞	+⅛	13.1	10.258
87	72⅞	Gas	3% 1990-95	84	..	4.07	10.785
100⅞	89	Exch	10¼% 1995	100	..	10.2	10.200
106⅞	94⅞	Treas	12% 1995	105⅞	..	11.3	10.224
109⅞	94⅞	Treas	12¾% 1995	109	..	11.6	10.228

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990/91 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
99⅞	82⅞	Treas	9% 1992-96	96⅞	●+⅛	9.3	9.955
100	83⅞	Conv	10% 1996	99⅞	..	10.1	10.228
112⅞	96	Exch	13¼% 1996	111	..	11.9	10.409
113⅞	100⅞	Treas	14% 1996	112⅞	+⅛	12.4	10.596
119⅞	102⅞	Treas	15¼% 1996	118⅞	..	12.8	10.488
94⅞	79⅞	Treas	8¾% 1997	93	+⅛	9.3	10.205
102⅞	87⅞	Exch	10½% 1997	100⅞	..	10.4	10.282
113⅞	98⅞	Treas	13¼% 1997	112	..	11.8	10.424
122⅞	106⅞	Exch	15% 1997	120⅞	..	12.4	10.587
85⅞	69	Treas	6¾% 1995-98	84⅞	+⅛	8.0	9.871
99⅞	83⅞	Exch	9¾% 1998	97⅞	+⅛	10.0	10.277
109⅞	89⅞	Exch	12% 1999	108⅞	+⅛	11.0	10.414
127⅞	107⅞	Treas	15½% 1998	125⅞	●+⅛	12.3	10.458
97⅞	82	Treas	9½% 1999	94⅞	+⅛	9.8	10.108
101⅞	81⅞	Conv	10¼% 1999	99⅞	+⅛	10.2	10.315
102⅞	84⅞	Treas	10½% 1999	101	+⅛	10.3	10.298
111⅞	94⅞	Exch	12¼% 1999	109⅞	●+⅛	11.1	10.422
94⅞	78⅞	Conv	9% 2000	93⅞	+⅛	9.6	10.138
116⅞	95⅞	Treas	13% 2000	114⅞	+⅛	11.3	10.456
100⅞	82⅞	Treas	10% 2001	98⅞	+⅛	10.1	10.231

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
224	119	Ryl Bk Scot	186	189	+1	11.8	5.7	9.3
902	613	Schroders	735	780	—	22.2	3.0	10.2
615	205	Stand Chart	290	297	-1	46.7	15.9	—
181	114	TSB	158	160●	+1	8.5	6.3	11.9
811	488	Union Disc	558	575●	...	46.7	8.2	10.0
525	284	Warburg SG	400	407	+1	20.0	5.0	7.1
179	50	Do 6% 'A'	132	135●	...	8.0	6.0	—
50¼	27⅜	Wells Fargo	40¾		+⅛	—	—	—
279	128	Westpac	153	157	-8	—	—	—
420	285	Wintrust	317	327●	+1	11.9	3.7	8.7

BREWERIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
530	408	Allied-Lyons	521	522	+¼	28.4	4.6	10.8
1114	890	Bass	1104	1109	—	43.2	4.0	11.0
170	124	Boddington	156	158	+3	7.2	4.8	16.5
208	161	Bulmer (H P)	203	212	+3	10.8	5.1	15.6
227	105	Burtonwood Brew	134	142	+8	5.3	3.8	12.9
410	290	Clark (Matthew)	390	400●	...	18.0	4.5	13.8
286	115	Devenish (JA)	165	168	+3	7.1	4.3	12.1
115	46	Fosters Brewing Gp	53	55●	...	—	—	—
743	521	Grand Met	733	737●	+13	27.2	3.7	13.3
359	274	Greenall Whit	325	330	+2	13.3	4.1	12.6
425	313	Greene King	414	422	—	13.8	3.3	14.9
823	600	Guinness	808	810	+8	21.7	2.7	17.1
955	670¼	Hardys & Hansons	945	985●	+17	44.7	4.7	11.7
265	182	Highland Dist	262	268	+1	6.4	2.4	20.1
186	120	Invergordon Dist	150	182	-1	6.7	4.4	18.4
460	375	Mansfield	443	453	+3	15.3	3.4	11.7
222	169	Marston Thompson	207	210	+2	5.6	2.7	17.0
300	240	Morland	255	282	+15	8.6	3.2	13.3
740	403	SA Breweries	730	750	+15	—	—	—
407	278	Scot & New	380	387	+3	18.2	4.7	14.8
323	174	Vaux Group	228	235	+4	11.7	5.0	12.0
498	380	Whitbread 'A'	481	488	+5	20.4	4.2	13.4
144	11¾	Do 'B'	13	13¼	—	20.4	1.5	37.3
432	339	Wolverhampton & D	447	457	+2	12.4	2.7	12.8
495	359	Young 'A'	419	430	+7	16.0	3.8	20.0

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
130	40	Abbey	65	75	+3	—e	—	—
258	160	Amec	258	260	+8	13.0	5.0	7.5
132	17	Anglia Sec	48	48	-5	—	—	—
156	73	Arncliffe	90	105	+1	8.0	8.2	2.5
631	182	Attwoods	223	230	+8	6.3	2.8	18.7
258	103	BPB Ind	224	228	+1	18.0	8.6	9.7
144	69	Baggeridge Brick	91	98	-2	4.2	4.4	11.2
71	25	Bailey (Ben) Constr	45	48	-1	2.5	5.3	4.9
185	87	Bardon Group	129	130●	+6½	5.1	3.9	13.7
215	57	Barratt Devs	90	95	+3	12.0	12.9	8.8
178	82	Beazer PLC	157	160	+8	10.3	6.5	8.2
285	144	Bellway	252	257	+9	14.7	8.8	14.7
41	0	Bellwinch	16	19	—			
315	142	Berkeley Gp	313	317	+5	6.6	1.6	18.5
142	105	Best Bros	107	115	+2	8.5	7.7	8.4
155	87	Blockleys	97	105	—	8.4	8.3	7.2
282	177	Blue Circle	261	263	—	15.0	5.3	8.6
618	423	Boot (Henry)	510	525	—	29.3	5.7	11.9
126	80	Breedon PLC	90	100	—	8.0	8.3	10.7
165	93	Br Dredging	130	135	—	9.3	7.0	8.4
119	72	Bryant	111	113●	+3	6.4	5.7	17.5
115	71	CALA	100	105	+1	4.5	4.4	13.5
286	167	CRH	243	252	—	7.3	2.9	—

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
131	82	SMC	73	75●	...	1.3	1.7	20.3
243	179	Electrocomponents	239	246	+5	8.1	3.3	14.0
94	63	Elec Data Process	88	90●	-1	4.0	4.3	5.8
110	17	Electron House	33	37●	...	2.8b	8.0	4.2
18	30	Emess	51	54	+1	4.7	8.9	8.2
331	178	Eurotherm	240	247●	+7	9.4	3.9	12.4
93	35	FKI	54	58	—	5.3	9.5	5.2
204	143	Farnell Elect	202	205	+4	6.9	3.4	14.4
46	9	Ferranti	12	14	—	—e	—	—
100	6	Ferranti Hldgs	6	7	—	—	—	1.2
800	50	Flat Tech	78	85	—	4.0	4.9	2.8
61	10	Forward Tech	14	18	+¼	—	—	3.3
244	188	GEC	205	207●	+5	12.3	8.0	10.2
715	435	Harland Simon	470	480	+10	8.7	1.8	12.8
485	343	Hoskyns Gp	367	377●	+2	3.2	0.9	28.8
226	189	Jones Stroud	189	210●	...	10.7	8.4	9.2
38	20	Kenbray	18	22	—			
145	110	Kode	110	115	—	10.0	8.8	—
340	270	Lec Refrigeration	280	290	—	10.3	7.1	32.3
78	43	Lelca	67	72	+1	1.3	1.9	15.2
115	74	Life Sciences	108	110	-3	3.9	3.6	14.3
359	141	Logica	202	207	+8	4.5	2.2	18.1
313	232	Micro 4	268	276	+1	12.0	4.4	13.0
192	145	Memec	180	190	—	8.2	4.4	11.9
277	116	Microfilm Repro	147	152	+8	4.3	2.8	18.4
12	448	Micro Focus	11¾	11⅞	-¼	—	—	28.8
170	105	Microgen	167	172●	+4	9.3	5.5	12.6
12	1¼	Millcon	3¼					
377	62	Misys	92	103●	+1	7.0	7.3	4.1
163	44	Mitel	78		-1	—	—	—
28¼	8¾	Motor	14¼		—			
112	70	Molynx	98	104	—	4.7	4.7	7.8
78	34	Mollstone Elect	50	53	-2	2.3	4.4	13.2
66	52	Murray Elec	50	50	—			
53¾	34¾	Nokia	38¾		-¾	—	—	—
180	65	Newmark (Louis)	68	78	—			
152	40	Northamber	63	68	—	3.3	5.0	4.9
25	10	Oceonics	13	15	—			
329	196	Oxford Instruments	264	272●	...	5.4	2.0	14.8
280	129	P-E International	185	190	+1	7.9	4.2	8.9
219	80	P & P	134	138	—	5.7	4.2	7.2
91	43	Peak	61	65	—	4.5	7.1	6.8
105	60	Philips Fin 5¾%	65	75	—	575b	8.2	—
15¾	6⅜	Philips Lamps N/V	8¾					
257	205	Pilco	255	263	+13	10.0	3.9	9.1
235	180	Do 'A' Ltd Voting	224	232	+8	9.7	4.3	—
108	63	Pressac	93	97	—	3.2	3.4	9.8
112	40	Quotient	75	80	—	3.3	4.2	
258	134	Racal Elect	216	218	+7	5.0	2.3	21.9
414	227	Racal Telecom	350	357	+4	5.7	1.6	22.8
177	88	Ross	92	94	+1	0.7	0.8	—
85	23	SD-Scicon	31	31	—	1.0	3.1	84.2
238	168	Sage Gp	237	240	+10	8.3	3.8	12.4
151	58	Scantronic	70	73	—	4.8	6.8	6.1
185	78	Scholes Gp	115	125	+4	10.4	8.7	10.1
630	362	Sema Gp	417	425	—	3.3	0.8	34.9
80	15	Sistron	28	33	—	1.1	3.5	5.2
327	232	STC	310	330	—	15.0	4.7	10.1
29¼	15⅞	TDK	27¼					
37	15¼	Telemetrix	19	21	-¼	0.7	3.5	7.7
822	570	THORN EMI	717	720	+12	40.7	5.7	10.5
23	3¾	Touchstone	4¼	5¼	...	—e		
195	90	Tunstall	130	137	+2	8.7	5.0	8.8
398	165	Unitech	220	229●	+6	15.6	6.9	15.2
85	28	Utd Scientific	44	48●	—	2.7	5.9	—
315	221	Volex	249	257	+3	22.7	9.0	6.0
66	14	Western Selection	22	27●	+1	1.3	6.2	—
389	283	Wholesale Fittings	312	320●	+1	22.2	7.0	11.2

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 30

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

WATER

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

WALL STREET

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Abbott Lab	46½	45½
Aetna Life	45½	45
Ahmanson	18½	17½
Air Prods	65½	64½
Albertsons	40½	39½
Alcan Al	23½	22½
Alco Stand	32½	32½
Allied Signal	30½	30½
Alumin CA	67½	66½
Am Brands	45½	44½
Am Cyanmd	55½	55½
Am EPC	28½	28½
Am General	37½	37
Am Home	57½	56½
Am Intl	63½	62½
Am Medical	5½	5½
Am Stores	76½	75½
Amax	25½	25½
[illegible]	48½	48½
Ameritech	65½	65½
[illegible]	28½	25½
Amoco	51½	51½
AMP	54	52½
AMR	61½	60½
Anheuser-B	47	46½
Apple Comp	61½	59½
Archer-Dan	22½	22½
Arkla	19½	19½
Armstrong	28½	28½
Asarco	30	29½
Ashland Oil	34	34½
AT&T	34	33½
Atlan Richfld	129½	128½
Auto DP	64	63
Avery Intl	24½	24½
Avon Prod	41½	41½
Baltimore	27½	28½
BancOne	34½	34½
Bankamerica	33½	32½
Bard	22½	21½
Barnett Bk	26	25½
Bausch Lmb	79	78½
Baxter Intl	32	31½
Bec Dickn	73½	73½
Bell Atlan	49½	48
Bellsouth	52½	52
Bkr Hughes	28½	28½
Black-Decker	14	13½
Block	48½	48½
Bnkrs Tst NY	46½	46
Boeing	50½	49½
Boise Casc	27½	27½
Borden	35	35
Brist-Myer	77½	76½
Browng-Fer	27½	26½
Burl Nth	29½	29½
CBI	9½	9
Campbell Sp	72	71
Cap Cities	497½	486½
Capital HC	45½	45
Carolina	47½	47½
Caterpillar	57½	55½
CBS	182½	179
Central SW	43½	43½
Champion	27	26½
Chase Man	15½	14½
Chem Bnkg	18	17½
Chevron	75½	76½
Chrysler	14½	14½
Chubb	67½	67
Cigna	50	49
Citicorp	15½	15½
Clbrne Liz	43½	45½
Clorox	39½	39½
ComwlthEdis	39½	38½
CNA Fncl	86	83½
Coastal	32½	33
Coca-Cola	52½	51½
Colgate-Pal	74½	73½
Columb Gas	44½	44½
Compaq	70	68½
Conagra	43½	42½
Cons Edis	24½	24½
Cons NG	43½	42½
Cons Rail	49½	49½
Cooper Ind	52½	51
Corning	58	57½
CPC Intl	81	78
Crown Cork	64½	64½
CSX	37½	37½
Dana	30	30½
Dayton-Hud	70	69½
Deere	53½	53½
Delta Air	77½	76½
Deluxe	38	37½
Detroit Ed	28½	28½
Digital Eq	77½	75½
Dillard	104½	101½
Disney	123½	122
Dominion	46½	46½
Donnelley	45½	45½
Dover	41½	41½
Dow Chem	54½	54½
Dow Jones	28	25½
Dresser Ind	28½	28½
Du Pont	38½	38½
Duke Pwr	27½	27½
Dun Bradst	46½	45½
East Kodak	45½	43½
Eaton	59	58½
Emerson El	44½	44

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Enron	56	57
Entergy	23½	23½
Ethyl	30½	29½
Exxon	55½	54½
Fed NMA	46	45½
Fedl Exprs	38½	38½
Flt Norstar	15½	15½
Fluor	51½	51½
FMC	37½	37½
Ford Motor	33½	33½
FPL	30	29½
Fst Chicago	25½	24½
Fst Intrsta	35½	35½
Fst Union	20½	19½
Gannett	41½	40½
Gen Cinema	23	23½
Gen Elec	68½	68
Gen Mills	54½	52½
Gen Motors	39½	39½
Gen RE	96½	96
Gen Signal	45½	43½
Genentech	25½	25½
Genuine Pts	42½	41½
Georgia-Pac	42½	41½
Gillette	74½	72½
Goodrich	40½	40½
Goodyear	23½	22½
Grace	30½	29½
Greyhound	30½	29½
Gt Atlantic	53	52
Gt Western	17½	17½
GTE	30½	31½
Halliburtn	52½	52
Heinz	36½	36
Hercules	41½	40½
Hershey Fd	38½	39½
Hewlett Pkd	49½	47½
Hilton Htl	48½	45½
Home Depot	51½	48½
Homestake	16½	17½
Honeywell	60	59½
Houston Ind	35½	35½
Hsehld Intl	49½	48½
Humana	46½	46½
IBM	130½	130½
IF&F	84½	82½
Illinois TW	55½	55½
Inco	32½	32½
Ingsol-Rand	52½	51½
Inland Steel	24½	25½
Intel	49½	48
Intl Paper	62½	62½
ITT	56½	56½
James River	26½	26½
Johnsn Jhsn	82½	81½
K Mart	39	37½
Kellogg	84½	83½
Kerr-McGee	45½	45½
Kmbrly-Clrk	87½	86½
Knight-Riddr	49	49
Lilly	83½	82½
Limited	25½	24½
Lin Brdcstg	68½	66½
Lincoln Nat	60	48½
Litton Ind	85½	83½
Lockheed	40½	40½
Louis-Pac	32½	32
Manu Hano	26½	25½
Marriott	18½	17½
Marsh Mclen	79	78½
Martin Mar	49½	48½
Masco	22½	22½
May Dept	59½	58
Maytag	14½	13½
MCA	n/a	n/a
McDnl Doug	40½	40½
McDonalds	32½	32½
McGraw-Hill	57½	56½
MCI Com	28½	28½
Mead	30½	30½
Medtronic	113½	111½
Melville	48½	49½
Merck	104½	102½
Merll Lynch	30½	31½
MM&M	90½	89½
Mobil	62½	62½
Monsanto	59½	59½
Moore	24	23½
Morgan	46½	46½
Motorola	63½	61
Nat Medical	44½	44
Nat Semi	7½	7½
Nat Service	25½	25½
Navistar	3½	3½
NCNB	30½	30½
NCR	95½	95
NED Bncp	38½	38½
Newmnt Min	38½	38½
Niagr Mhwk	14½	14½
Nike	49½	48½
NL Indstrs	13½	13
Nordstorm	35½	35½
Norfk Sthn	44½	44½
Norwest	26½	25½
Nthn St Pwr	34½	34½
Nthn Telcm	31½	30½
NY Times	23½	22½
Nynex	76½	75½
Occid Petrl	20½	20½
Ohio Edi	17½	17½
Oracle Sys	9	8½

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Oryx Energy	39	38½
Pac Ent	42	41½
Pac Gas Elec	24½	24½
Pac Telesis	43½	42½
Paccar	40½	40½
Pacificorp	22	21½
Pall	32½	31½
Paramount	41½	41½
Parker-Hanin	28	27½
Penney	55½	54½
Pennzoil	71½	71½
Pepsico	32½	31½
Pfizer	107½	105½
Philips Pet	28½	27½
Philips Elec	19½	19
Philip Morris	65½	65½
Phlps Dodge	66½	66½
Pitney Bow	53½	52½
Plcr Dome	14½	15
PNC Fncl	28½	28½
Prndle Esth	14½	14½
Polaroid	27½	26½
PPG Inds	51½	50½
Proctr Gmble	84	83½
Price	44½	44
Primerica	32½	32½
Pub Service	26½	26½
Quaker Oats	58	57½
Ralston Pur	106½	105
Raychem	28	27½
Raytheon	76½	75½
Reebok	21½	20½
Roadway	48½	47½
Rockwell	27½	27½
Rohm Haas	43½	43½
Royal Dutch	81½	80
Rubbermaid	44	43½
Rynlds Mtl	64	63½
Safeco	40	39½
Salomon	27	27½
Sant Fe Pac	8½	8
Sara Lee	36½	35½
Scecorp	38½	38½
Schlmbgr	62½	62
Schrg-Plgh	50½	49½
Scott Papr	43½	43½
Seagram	95½	95½
Sears Rbk	31½	30½
Secrty Pac	28½	28½
Shrwn-Wlms	43½	42½
Skyline	18½	18½
Snap-on Tls	31½	30½
Southern	27½	27½
St Paul	67½	65½
Stanley Wk	35½	35½
Stone Cntr	14½	14½
Sun Co	33½	32½
Suntst Bk	26½	26
Super Valu	25½	25½
SW Bell	54½	53½
Syntex	77½	75½
Sysco	38½	37½
Tandem	13½	13½
Tandy	32½	31½
Tele-comm	15½	15½
Teledyne	23½	23½
Temple-In	37½	36½
Tenneco	49½	49½
Texaco	64	63½
Texas Inst	41½	40½
Texas Util	38½	38½
Textron	29½	29½
Time Wrnr	108½	107½
Times Mirr	30½	30½
Timken	27½	27½
Torchmark	55½	55½
Toys R Us	28½	28½
Transam	36½	35½
Travelers	21½	20½
Tribune	44	42½
TRW	41½	41½
Tyco Lab	47½	46½
UAL	151½	148½
Un Camp	43½	41½
Un Carbide	19½	18½
Un Pacific	78½	78½
Unilever	86½	86½
Unisys	4½	4½
Unocal	28½	27½
Upjohn	45½	44½
US West	39	38½
Usair Gp	23½	22½
USF&G	9½	9½
UST	42½	42½
USX	31	30½
Utd Tech	50½	49½
Utd Telcm	25½	24½
VF	25½	25
Wal-Mart	36½	36
Walgreen	n/a	n/a
Waste Mgmt	43	41½
Wells Fargo	80½	77½
Westg Elec	29½	27½
Weyerhsr	28½	28
Whirlpool	28½	28
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn-Dixie	38½	37½
Woolworth	34½	33½
Wrigley	80½	80½
Wrnr-Lamb	77½	75½
Xerox	58	57½

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyons	460	70	75	86	3½	9	11
(*523)	500	36	46	58	9	20	24
	550	11	19	32	35	48	50
ASDA	120	19	24	26	2	4	7
(*138)	130	10	17	20	5	7	11
	140	5	12	15	10	12	15
Bass	950	148	168	197	4½	11	16
(*1080)	1000	103	130	160	9	22	27
	1050	64	95	125	22	40	[illegible]
Boots	300	64	69	72	1	3½	5
(*358)	330	36	43	51	2½	[illegible]	12
	360	16	23	33	13	21	23
Br Airways	140	38	39	42	1	3½	5
(*172)	160	20	24	27	4	10	12
	180	8½	14	18	14	21	23
BP	300	43	49	55	2½	5½	8½
(*335)	330	18	28	34	8½	15	20
	360	4½	13	–	27	31	–
Br Steel	120	26½	28	30	1	2	3
(*145)	130	18	19½	21	2	4	5½
	140	10	13	14½	4½	9	10
C & W	460	84	100	115	3	9	12
(*541)	500	56	70	85	7	19	24
	550	22	34	55	29	37	42
CU	460	70	75	78	3½	7½	14
(*529)	500	30	45	52	13	20	28
	550	9	22	28	49	50	53
Courtauld	330	56	59	70	1½	5	7
(*378)	360	29	36	47	6	13	15
	390	11	20	30	19	27	29
GKN	330	47	53	55	6	10	16
(*379)	360	20	35	38	15	20	28
	390	7	20	25	37	38	45
Grand Met	650	94	113	130	5	12	17
(*735)	700	53	75	95	13	26	30
	750	22	48	68	35	48	50
ICI	950	105	127	135	13	24	35
(*1069)	1000	58	92	105	27	42	55
	1050	27	63	78	57	64	79
Kingfisher	390	61	71	76	2½	8	12
(*443)	420	36	46	55	8½	16	21
	460	14	26	35	25	35	33
Ladbroke	240	41	43	51	4	8	11
(*271)	260	24	30	39	7	16	19
	280	12	19	27	16	25	29
Land Sec	500	53	63	72	3½	10	13
(*545)	550	18	30	41	19	31	35
	600	3½	10	21	60	65	70
M & S	220	26	30	36	2½	6½	9
(*241)	240	12	18	25	9	15	17
	260	4	9	15	22	28	29
Sainsbury	300	36	42	52	2	5½	9
(*330)	330	14	25	32	12	17	21
	360	3½	10	19	35	37	38
Shell	420	58	73	83	4	7	11
(*468)	460	24	44	53	12	17	23
	500	6½	22	33	37	38	43
Smkl Beech	600	125	137	152	1½	6	10
(*722)	650	77	96	113	5	15	20
	700	39	62	78	17	29	32
Storehse	100	23	25	27	1½	3½	5
(*120)	110	15	18	21	3	6	8
	120	8	12	16	7	12	14
Trafalgar	220	52	53	63	3½	9	12
(*265)	240	36	39	50	7	15	20
	260	22	28	38	14	25	28
Ultramar	300	55	64	69	3	5	8
(*354)	330	28	40	50	7½	10½	15
	360	12	24	35	22	26	27
Unilever	600	119	125	–	2	5	–
(*716)	650	72	85	105	6	14	18
	700	32	52	74	22	30	37
	750	9	30	47	53	60	65
Utd Bisc	330	52	55	64	2	4½	7
(*377)	360	24	34	43	8	13	16
	390	7	17	26	26	28	32
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAA	360	75	77	87	3½	7	10
(*420)	390	48	55	67	7	16	19
	420	30	38	49	18	29	32
BAT Ind	550	155	155	–	3	5	–
(*704)	600	107	113	127	5	12	15
	650	65	77	98	16	25	30
	700	33	50	65	33	44	50
BTR	360	36	50	55	9	13	16
(*394)	390	17	32	38	22	24	28
	420	7	–	–	45	–	–
Br Aero	550	95	113	122	9	14	21
(*641)	600	57	77	90	23	32	40
	650	28	50	63	50	57	65
Br Telecm	280	47½	53	57	2	6½	8
(*315)	300	31	38	44	6	11½	13
	330	12	20	27	19	24	27
Cadbury	330	37	48	55	5½	9	11
(*363)	360	18	30	37	17	21	24
	390	7	16	25	40	41	44
Guinness	750	75	97	115	14	25	26
(*808)	800	43	67	82	35	43	48
	850	19	43	59	65	72	75
GEC	180	30	33	35	2	5½	6½
(*206)	200	17	19½	23	6½	12	13
	220	6	9	14	19	24	25
Hanson	200	34	37	43	2	4	5
(*228)	220	18	24	30	6	9½	11
	240	8	13½	19	16	20	20
LASMO	330	53	67	77	6	10	14
(*383)	360	33	48	57	15	20	27
	390	18	32	40	30	35	42
P & O	500	127	127	–	3	5½	–
(*622)	550	77	85	92	9	15	23
	600	38	52	62	27	35	43
Pilkington	160	37	38	41	3	6½	8
(*191)	180	22	24	29	7½	13	16
	200	11	13	20	17	25	27

	Series	Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
Prudential	200	32	35	38	2½	5	7½
(*231)	220	15	23	26	9	12	15
	240	7	13	17	22	23	27
Racal	160	60	63	67	1	2	3½
(*216)	180	41	45	51	2	5½	7
	200	25	33	38	6½	11	14
	220	14	20	25	15	21	23
RTZ	420	123	131	–	3	5½	–
(*536)	460	82	92	103	7	11	14
	500	46	63	75	15	19	25
	550	20	38	47	40	41	46
Scot New	330	71	77	–	2½	5	–
(*390)	360	45	52	60	6	12	15
	390	25	33	41	17	25	27
	420	12	19	29	36	43	45
Tesco	214	37	41	–	3	4½	–
(*248)	233	20	27	–	6	8½	–
	253	8	15	–	15	17	–
Thames W.	280	34	38	42	5	10	12
(*302)	300	21	25	30	11	19	22
	330	8	11	15	30	36	39
Lucas	130	40	44	–	2	3	–
(*168)	140	31	36	42	3	4½	6½
	160	16	23	27	9	12	14
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Fisons	390	55	66	80	3	8	10
(*441)	420	29	44	59	10	16	19
	460	9	24	35	32	34	36
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat	220	45	45	46	1	3	4½
(*267)	240	25	29	33	3	6½	10
	260	7	16	22	12	13	18
Amstrad	60	10½	14½	17½	1	3½	5
(*70)	70	2½	8	11	4½	7	9
	80	½	–	–	12	–	–
Barclays	360	72	72	75	2½	5	12
(*440)	390	42	51	54	5½	13	20
	420	14	31	36	17	25	34
Blue Circ	240	45	48	52	1½	7	10
(*282)	260	26	33	39	3½	13	18
	280	11	22	27	13	24	25
Br Gas	220	21	31	33	2	4½	8
(*238)	240	6	17	20	6	10	16
	260	2	7	10	23	24	29
Dixons	140	45	50	52	1	1½	3
(*183)	160	25	33	36	1	4	8
	180	9	19	24	6	11	16
Glaxo	900	115	147	177	3	13	24
(*1028)	950	65	107	–	8	25	–
	1000	27	74	–	24	45	–
Hawker	460	115	122	130	1½	8	12
(*569)	500	77	83	98	5	15	23
	550	35	47	65	14	35	40
Hillsdown	180	48	52	56	1	4	7
(*225)	200	29	35	42	2	9	13
	220	14	22	31	7	18	22
Lonrho	200	34	41	45	1½	4	7
(*233)	220	15	24	32	4	9	15
	240	4	15	21	12	19	24
Midland	160	22	33	37	3½	8	10
(*186)	180	8½	19	24	11	16	20
	200	3	10½	14	25	27	33
	220	1	5	8	43	45	52
Reuters	750	55	–	116	17	–	50
(*805)	800	24	–	91	38	–	70
	850	11	–	70	80	–	102
R-Royce	140	32	34	36	½	3½	5
(*173)	160	13	18	24	3½	8	10½
	180	3	9	13	15	18½	20
Sears	80	16	18	18	1	3	3½
(*94)	90	6½	9	11	2	6½	7
	100	2	4½	7½	8	12	13
THF	240	43	48	51	1	4	6½
(*280)	260	24	30	37	3	9	13
	280	9	17	26	9	18	22
Thorn EMI	600	113	131	134	1	4	10
(*715)	650	64	88	91	3	10	23
	700	23	52	59	14	26	42
	750	5	–	–	47	–	–
TSB	130	26	32	35	1	2	2½
(*159)	140	17	22	27	1	3½	6
	160	3½	11	14	7½	11	12
Vaal Reefs	50	14	16	18	1½	4	6
(*$62)	60	7	10½	13	4	8	11
Wellcome	460	42	63	82	4	18	23
(*505)	500	20	40	59	15	32	40
	550	4	20	35	54	62	67
	Series	Mar	May	Aug	Mar	May	Aug
Eastrn Elec	140	24	29	32	1	3	5½
(*164)	160	8	15	19	4	8	12
	180	2	7	10	17	19	26
Sthrn Elec	140	33	38	–	2	3	–
(*172)	160	15	21	–	3½	6	–
	180	3	10	–	11	13	–
Elec Pack	1800	85	120	–	40	80	–
(*1808)	1850	55	95	–	70	100	–
	1900	40	75	–	110	130	–

FT-SE INDEX (*2416)

	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500
Calls						
Mar	168	134	90	52	28	14
Apr	193	150	120	83	57	36
May	208	168	135	113	73	52
Jun	228	188	157	126	99	76
Dec	—	280	—	227	—	162
Puts						
Mar	6	11	18	35	63	106
Apr	18	27	39	56	85	120
May	28	38	52	71	99	132
Jun	38	48	59	77	103	133
Dec	—	95	—	125	—	180

March 5, 1991: Total: 36742 Calls 24209 Puts 12533 FT-SE: Calls 8420 Puts 4620

*Underlying security price.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 4	March 15	June 13	June 24

Call options were taken out on: 5/3/91 Aviva, Burton, Control Secs, Dares Estates, Ferranti, Medeva Wts, Next, Olivers, P&P, Pavilion Leisure, Premier, Saatchi & Saatchi.

Puts: BMSS, Doctus.

Put & Call: WPP.

STOCK MARKET

Prices race to the highest level in more than a year

INVESTORS resumed their assault on the equity market with share prices breaching the 2,400 mark to close at their highest for more than a year.

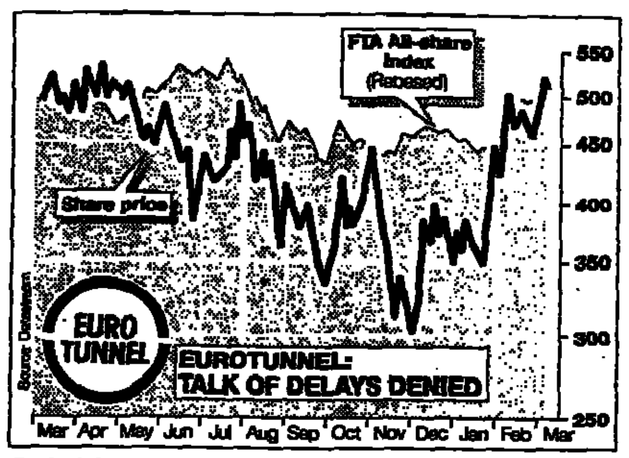
A gloomy set of figures from the Midland Bank was quickly shrugged aside as the City pinned its hopes on another cut in base rates in the run-up to the Budget on March 19. Sentiment was also flavoured by mounting speculation about a June general election.

An opening gain of almost 40 points on Wall Street helped the FT-SE 100 index to close at the top, having been 10.8 down at the start. The index ended 37.2 points higher at 2,420.1 — its highest since January last year and only 43.6 points shy of its all-time high of 2,463.7, achieved in the same month.

The rush caught dealers on the hop and, by the close of business, almost 700 million shares had changed hands with demand also filtering through to the second and third line issues. The FT index of 30 shares rose 27.9 to 1,946.0.

The mood also affected government securities where falls were replaced with gains of up to £½ at the longer end.

Sir Kit McMahon's decision to step down as the chairman of the Midland Bank in June and the appointment of Brian Pearse, the finance director at Barclays Bank, as the new chief executive and Sir Peter Walters, previously with BP, as deputy chairman immediately, stunned the City. This followed the confirmation of a swingeing cut in Midland's final dividend, from 10.7p to 1.7p.



Midland's full-year figures were slightly better than expected with a pre-tax profit of £11 million compared with a loss of £261 million. Analysts had been forecasting another loss of about £50 million. The figure was struck after exceptional charges totalling £52 million relating to a group reorganisation. The provision for bad and doubtful debts was £752 million.

The Midland price responded with a sharp fall, touching 168p before closing off the bottom with a loss of 8p at 182p.

Switching out of Midland lifted Barclays by 3p to 434p and National Westminster by 16p to 328p while Lloyds recovered from an early fall to close unchanged at 352p.

British Airways dipped 8p to 165p after the government decision to open Heathrow to new international operators.

British Telecom rose 6p to 316p and Cable and Wireless, its main rival, 13p to 540p.

Cadbury Schweppes advanced 11p to 362p ahead of full-year figures today. Fears of a rights issue with the figures have faded. Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits to grow £36 million to £280 million. Others gaining ground ahead of trading statements included SmithKline Beecham, 9p to 724p, United Newspapers, 12p to 357p, GKN, 10p to 379p, and Hawker Siddeley, 5p to 569p. One loser was BICC, down 10p to 426p, after a profits downgrading by UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, ahead of figures today.

James Capel, the broker, is taking an increasingly bullish view of the paper and packaging industry, which it regards as a lead indicator and an early beneficiary of any pick-up in the economy. Among companies it is recommending are Wiggins Teape, up 12p at 219p, Bowater, 7p better at 555p, and Portals, unchanged at 308p.

Full-year figures from Fisons showed a 36 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £230.2 million — in line with expectations. Profits were boosted by the acquisition of VG Instruments at the end of 1989. The shares held steady at 439p.

Eurotunnel's units suffered an early markdown, touching 485p, before recovering to close only 2p cheaper at 508p after reports that the failure to install the signalling system could delay the opening of the tunnel link by up to a year.

Analysts calculate that such a delay could cost the group £1 billion and issued a warning that it could also jeopardise the dividend promised in 1999. But both Eurotunnel and the contractor, Transmanche-Link, categorically denied any delay.

Pearson, the publishing, merchant banking and leisure group, jumped 23p to 749p after confirming market speculation in disposing of its 22 per cent holding in Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group.

Shares in Vantage Securities, the investment trust, were suspended at 86p and the warrants at 36p, pending shareholders' approval of reorganisation proposals. The group saw its gross revenue slip from £213.9 million to £209.7 million last year.

MICHAEL CLARK

NEW YORK

Bonds aid early rise in Dow

New York

BLUE chips were firm in morning dealings after falling from their opening levels. Gains in the bond market supported shares. The Dow Jones industrial average was 10 points higher at 2,924.11 after reaching 2,927.

Jack Conlon, the managing director of Rothschild Inc, said: "The technical underpinnings of the market are positive and I think that the market contains one more burst of enthusiasm before a good old-fashioned correction." He said that blue chips could near the 3,000 level before falling by 10 to 12 per cent.

● **Tokyo** — Shares ended easier after a volatile afternoon, weighed down by heavy sales by arbitrageurs and a drop in the local bond market. The Nikkei index was down 62.54 points, or 0.24 per cent, to 25,913.48.

● **Hong Kong** — Prices closed sharply higher and breached the key psychological resistance mark of 3,600. The Hang Seng index surged 36.15 points to 3,600.49 and the broader-based Hong Kong index rose 23.5 points to 2,363.34.

● **Singapore** — The market rose over a broad front in active trading and the Straits Times industrial index closed at the year's high of 1,484.72, up 11.87 points. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR INDICES

New York:
Dow Jones .... 2956.88 (+42.57)*
S&P Composite .... 375.26 (+5.93)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 25913.48 (−62.54)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 3600.49 (+36.15)
FT-SE Euro 100 .... 1064.17 (+9.18)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 91.0 (+1.3)
Sydney: AO .... 1375.0 (−12.2)
Frankfurt: DAX .... 1540.26 (+9.40)
Brussels:
General .... 5634.74 (+13.83)
Paris: CAC .... 472.14 (+4.13)
Zurich: SKA Gen .... n/a
London:
FT.—A All-Share ..... 1171.35 (+16.48)
FT.— "500" .... 1286.96 (+17.76)
FT. Gold Mines .... 142.5 (−0.5)
FT. Fixed interest .... 93.21 (+0.06)
FT. Govt Secs .... 84.74 (+0.13)
Bargains 38710
SEAQ Volume 698.0m
USM (Datastream) .... 124.82 (+1.19)

*Denotes latest trading price

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr (100p)	115
Brabant Res (155p)	134
CMW Group (30p)	25
Castle Comm (50p)	36
EFM Java Tst (50p)	38
East German Inv	114 +6
Eidos (100p)	59
Europe Energy	15
Faber Prest (175p)	129
Foreign & Col	47½ +½
Highcroft Inv	160
Invergordon (135p)	151 −1
Levercrest (108p)	82 +3
MMEC	3½
MMI (20p)	23½
Malaysia Capital	86⅞
Midland Radio	85
Pelican Gp (50p)	24 +3
Proteus Intl (84p)	96
Seton Healthcare	166
St James Place (130p)	73 +1
Smaller IT	76½ −½
Stand Platform (225p)	169
Ty Euro Gwth (100p)	91 +1
Trio Inv Tst	44
Utd Uniform	88
Unichem (100p)	146
Wig Tpe App	219 +12
RIGHTS ISSUES	
Resort Hotels N/P	14
Wilkes N/P	17

(Issue price in brackets).

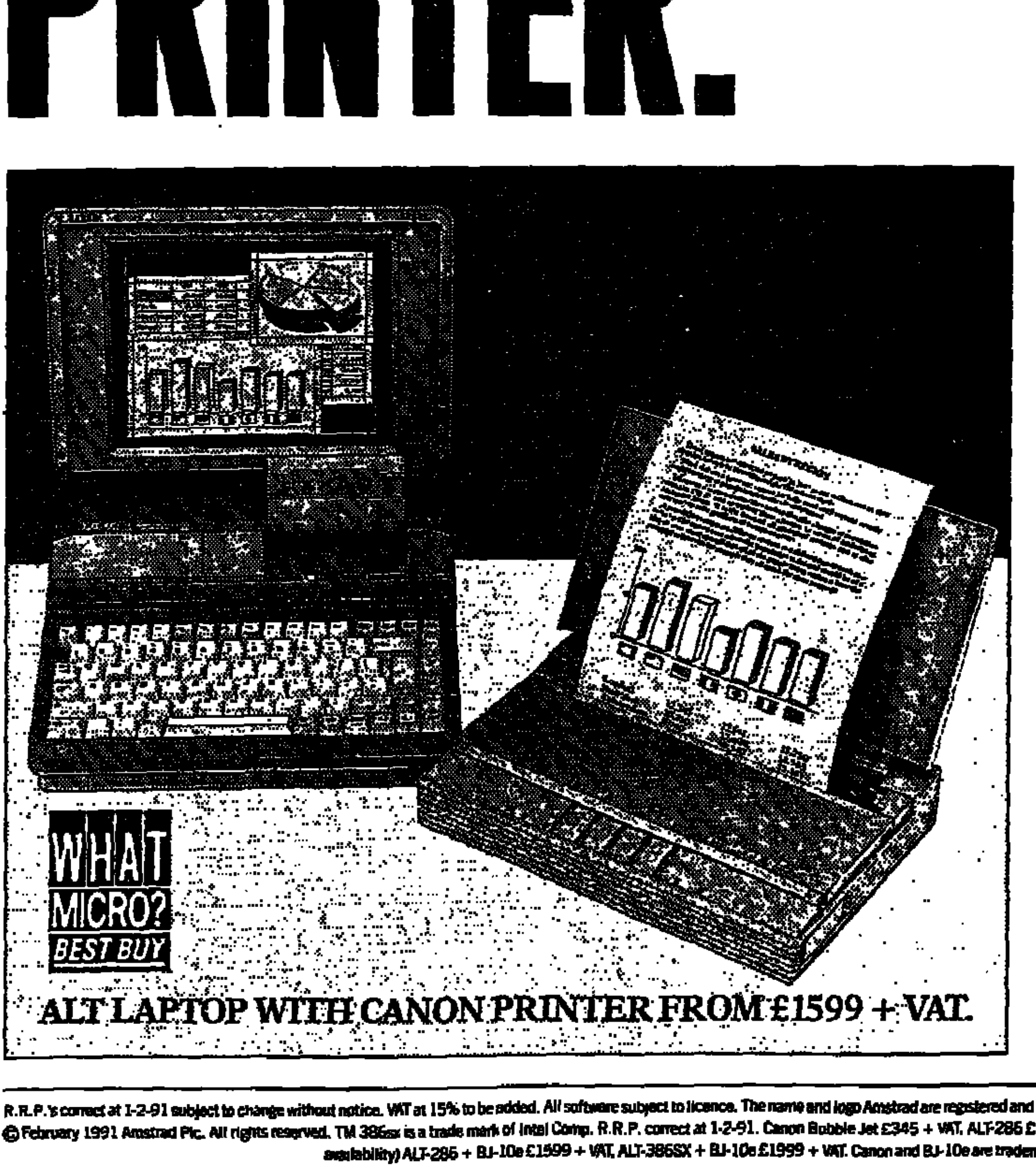
FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	3,384	Cadbury	3,568	L&G	1,611	Royal Bnk	624
Allo-Lyons	1,698	CU	788	Lloyds	4,875	Royal Ins	1,360
Anglian	1,117	Courtaulds	2,329	Lonrho	1,652	Sainsbury	1,767
ASDA	5,309	Dalgety	805	Lucas	4,142	Scot & N	443
AB Foods	716	Enterprise	1,206	M&S	4,698	Sears	4,990
Argyll	3,110	Eurotunnel	857	Maxwell Cm	816	Severn Trnt	1,537
BAA	1,025	Fisons	6,470	MEPC	727	Shell	6,018
BET	1,983	Gen Acc	1,269	Midland	38,088	Smith & N	5,274
BTR	2,813	GEC	15,983	Nat West	6,231	SK Beech	3,351
BAT	1,486	Glaxo	2,848	N W Water	1,852	Sun Allnce	1,802
Barclays	8,882	Grand Met	3,037	P&O	1,264	Tarmac	2,783
Bass	525	GUS 'A'	149	Pearson	753	Tate Lyle	1,982
BICC	3,089	GRE	3,754	Pilkington	2,478	TSB	1,940
Bk Scotland	295	GKN	1,808	Prudential	2,314	Tesco	3,813
Blue Circle	3,058	Guinness	1,540	Racal	3,611	Thames Wtr	2,521
BOC	646	Hamm 'A'	223	Rk Hovis	758	Thorn EMI	455
Boots	2,183	Hanson	5,050	Rank	645	Trafalgar	1,852
Br Aero	1,585	H & C	1,493	R&C	279	THF	2,261
Br Airways	5,440	Hawker	1,987	Redland	944	Ultramar	2,197
Br Gas	8,200	Hillsdown	1,898	Reed	1,942	Unilever	899
Br Petrol	7,727	ICI	1,744	Reuters	903	United Bis	1,058
Br Steel	8,965	Kingfisher	859	RMC Gp	1,419	Wellcome	702
Br Telecm	8,717	Lasmo	1,893	RTZ	1,382	Whitbrd	765
Burmah Cst	513	Ladbroke	5,390	R-Royce	5,189	Wgn Teape	4,428
C&W	2,051	Land Sec	1,697	Rothmn 'B'	116	Wills Cor	700

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	650.4	0.2	13.3	0.8	12.6	0.9	12.1
(free)	124.3	0.2	13.3	0.7	12.4	0.9	12.1
EAFE	1109.7	0.4	13.1	0.6	12.3	1.0	11.9
(free)	113.9	0.4	13.0	0.5	12.0	1.0	11.8
Europe	674.7	1.0	13.4	1.0	13.8	1.6	12.1
(free)	145.7	1.0	13.1	0.8	13.3	1.7	11.9
Nth America	479.5	0.0	13.8	0.6	12.6	0.7	12.6
Nordic	1284.1	0.7	18.1	0.7	18.1	1.4	16.8
(free)	210.0	0.9	17.4	0.9	17.5	1.6	16.1
Pacific	2435.9	−0.1	12.9	0.3	11.0	0.5	11.7
Far East	3533.8	−0.1	13.0	0.3	11.1	0.6	11.8
Australia	252.2	−1.4	9.9	−0.6	8.2	−0.7	8.7
Austria	1455.1	0.3	11.2	0.3	12.3	0.9	10.0
Belgium	797.6	0.4	12.9	0.4	13.6	1.0	11.7
Canada	465.9	−0.1	9.6	0.4	7.8	0.6	8.4
Denmark	1237.2	0.8	14.7	0.6	15.0	1.4	13.5
Finland	70.7	0.8	9.9	0.8	10.6	1.4	8.7
(free)	103.1	0.5	19.9	0.5	20.7	1.1	18.6
France	664.8	1.3	16.0	1.2	17.0	1.9	14.7
Germany	747.1	0.9	9.1	0.8	9.9	1.6	7.9
Hong Kong	2319.4	0.1	20.6	0.7	19.2	0.7	19.3
Italy	281.4	0.6	10.2	0.6	10.2	1.3	9.1
Japan	3695.3	−0.1	12.7	0.3	10.8	0.5	11.5
Netherlands	800.0	1.1	8.3	1.1	9.2	1.8	7.2
New Zealand	57.6	−1.7	11.9	−1.1	8.8	−1.1	10.7
Norway	1183.3	1.2	6.2	1.1	6.5	1.8	5.1
(free)	210.2	0.8	8.2	0.8	8.5	1.5	7.0
Sing/Malay	1734.2	0.4	19.6	1.1	18.0	1.1	18.4
Spain	196.9	0.5	20.0	0.4	18.1	1.1	18.7
Sweden	1427.8	0.6	25.4	0.6	25.0	1.2	24.1
(free)	207.6	1.2	25.1	1.2	24.7	1.8	23.8
Switzerland	804.4	0.9	14.0	1.0	17.2	1.6	12.8
(free)	121.1	0.9	12.7	0.9	15.7	1.5	11.5
UK	727.5	1.1	13.8	1.1	13.8	1.8	12.6
USA	435.5	0.0	14.1	0.7	12.9	0.7	12.9

(lc) Local currency.* *Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.*



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[illegible]

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) ● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.8 (day's range 93.7-93.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9000-1.9090	1.9000-1.9010	1.03-1.02pr	2.71-2.69pr
Montrl	2.1907-2.2078	2.1907-2.1947	0.68-0.58pr	1.14-1.02pr
Amstrdm	3.2802-3.2906	3.2870-3.2906	1¼-1pr	2¾-2⅝pr
Brussels	59.84-60.17	59.95-60.17	22-17pr	53-42pr
Copnhgn	11.1788-11.2140	11.1891-11.2140	3⅛-2⅝pr	7⅛-6⅝pr
Dublin	1.0915-1.0948	1.0938-1.0948	25-20pr	51-42pr
Frankft	2.9101-2.9213	2.9178-2.9213	1-⅞pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Lisbon	252.81-254.78	252.89-253.87	1-34ds	71-149ds
Madrid	180.88-181.74	180.98-181.64	19-26ds	62-73ds
Milan	2172.84-2181.40	2176.45-2181.40	2pr-par	2pr-par
Oslo	11.3820-11.3966	11.3820-11.3870	2¼-1⅞pr	5¼-4⅝pr
Paris	9.9112-9.9384	9.9237-9.9384	3⅛-3pr	7⅞-7⅝pr
Stckhlm	10.8015-10.8432	10.8015-10.8262	1-⅜pr	1⅝-⅞pr
Tokyo	256.74-257.81	257.26-257.59	1⅛-1pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Vienna	20.4723-20.5156	20.4858-20.5156	7⅞-6⅝pr	18⅛-15⅛pr
Zurich	2.5306-2.5435	2.5403-2.5435	1⅛-1pr	2⅝-2⅜pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 13 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 13 Low 11⅞ Week fixed: 13

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 12$^{3}/_{16}$; 3 mth 11$^{29}/_{32}$. Sell: 2 mth 12$^{1}/_{16}$; 3 mth: 11$^{27}/_{32}$.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	12⅛-12$^{5}/_{16}$	12$^{7}/_{32}$-12$^{3}/_{32}$	11$^{31}/_{32}$-11⅞	11$^{5}/_{16}$-11⅛	
Trade Bills (Dis):	13¼	12$^{27}/_{32}$	12$^{19}/_{32}$	11$^{15}/_{16}$	
Interbank:	13$^{3}/_{32}$-13$^{1}/_{32}$	12⅞-12$^{13}/_{16}$	12$^{11}/_{16}$-12⅝	12$^{5}/_{32}$-12⅛	11$^{13}/_{16}$-11⅝
(Overnight: open 13 , close 11⅞.					
Local Authority Deps:	13⅛	n/a	12⅝	12⅛	11⅝
Sterling CDs:	13⅛-13$^{1}/_{16}$	12⅞-12⅞	12$^{11}/_{16}$-12⅝	12$^{5}/_{32}$-$^{1}/_{16}$	11$^{11}/_{16}$-11⅝
Dollar CDs:	6.85-6.80	6.85-6.80	6.77-6.72	6.77-6.72	7.08-7.03
Building Society CDs:	13⅛-13$^{1}/_{16}$	12$^{15}/_{16}$-$^{13}/_{16}$	12⅝-12$^{11}/_{16}$	12⅛-12⅜	11$^{13}/_{16}$-11⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6$^{7}/_{16}$-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6⅞-6$^{11}/_{16}$	6$^{13}/_{16}$-6⅝	6$^{13}/_{16}$-6⅝	6⅝-5⅞
Deutschemark:	9⅛-8⅞	9$^{1}/_{16}$-8$^{15}/_{16}$	9$^{1}/_{16}$-8$^{15}/_{16}$	9$^{1}/_{16}$-8$^{15}/_{16}$	8⅛-7⅞
French Franc:	9$^{7}/_{16}$-9$^{5}/_{16}$	9$^{7}/_{16}$-9$^{5}/_{16}$	9⅜-9⅜	9$^{9}/_{16}$-9$^{7}/_{16}$	9⅛-8⅛
Swiss Franc:	8⅛-8	8⅛-8⅜	8$^{3}/_{16}$-8$^{1}/_{16}$	8$^{1}/_{16}$-7$^{15}/_{16}$	8-7
Yen:	8⅛-8	8$^{3}/_{16}$-8$^{7}/_{16}$	8⅛-8⅛	7$^{15}/_{16}$-$^{13}/_{16}$	7⅛-6⅛

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS *(Baird & Co)*

Bullion: Open $364.80-365.30 Close: $364.50-365.00 High: $364.80-365.30 Low: $363.70-364.20 Krugerrand: $364.00-365.00 (£190.50-191.50)

Sovereigns: Old $93.00-94.00 (£48.50-49.50) New $87.00-88.00 (£45.00-46.00)

Platinum: $398.00 (£208.70) **Silver:** $3.84 (£2.015) **Palladium:** $83.55 (£43.80)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	17744.4-17845.4
Australia dollar	2.4641-2.4678
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	429.990-430.484
Cyprus pound	0.828-0.838
Finland marka	7.0225-7.0825
Greece drachma	313.15-316.35
Hong Kong dollar	14.8730-14.8828
India rupee	36.15-36.55
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.2056-5.2103
Mexico peso	5630-5730
New Zealand dollar	3.1896-3.1967
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3082-3.3120
S Africa rand (fin)	5.9874-6.0813
S Africa rand (com)	4.9309-4.9393
U A E dirham	n/a

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7460-1.7475
Singapore	1.7330-1.7340
Malaysia	2.7269-2.7279
Australia	1.2908-1.2919
Canada	1.1533-1.1543
Sweden	5.6700-5.6750
Norway	5.9650-5.9700
Denmark	5.8600-5.8650
W Germany	1.5240-1.5247
Switzerland	1.3248-1.3255
Netherlands	1.7195-1.7205
France	5.1950-5.2000
Japan	134.80-134.90
Italy	1139.5-1140.5
Belgium (Com)	31.39-31.43
Hong Kong	7.7910-7.7920
Portugal	132.70-132.90
Spain	94.95-95.05
Austria	10.72-10.74

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%. Schemes II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 35237	Mar 91	2363.0	2436.0	2377.0	2430.0	8747
	Jun 91	2419.0	2478.0	2418.0	2470.0	2399
	Sep 91				2501.5	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 146331	Mar 91	87.58	87.67	87.57	87.66	8636
	Jun 91	88.68	88.80	88.66	88.77	13105
	Sep 91	89.19	89.29	89.17	89.27	2186
Three Month Eurodollar Previous open interest: 45236	Mar 91	93.10	93.15	93.10	93.14	2307
	Jun 91	93.15	93.19	93.15	93.18	2525
Three Month Euro DM Previous open interest: 98819	Mar 91	90.85	90.92	90.84	90.91	3612
	Jun 91	91.07	91.15	91.06	91.15	6850
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 4610	Mar 91	95-11	95-28	95-11	95-24	366
	Jun 91	94-23	95-02	94-20	94-31	2467
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 41276	Mar 91	91-13	91-28	91-06	91-26	3050
	Jun 91	91-22	92-07	91-19	92-05	22012
Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 718	Mar 91	95.55	95.55	95.40	95.44	53
	Jun 91	95.80	95.98	95.80	95.93	160
German Govt Bond Previous open interest: 94096	Mar 91	84.99	85.46	84.92	85.42	27912
	Jun 91	85.24	85.77	85.20	85.72	42039
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 2872	Mar 91	90.40	90.43	90.39	90.42	70
	Jun 91	90.59	90.69	90.59	90.67	170

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA		COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB) C Czarnikow	
Mar	625-610	Mar	622-621	May	209.4-08.8
May	650-649	May	545-544	Aug	206.6-04.8
Jul	680-679	Jul	561-560	Oct	201.6-99.8
Sep	701-700	Sep	580-579	Dec	200.2-90.0
Dec	730-729	Nov	594-592	Mar	195.2-95.0
Mar	753-751	Jan	610-606	May	197.8-95.0
May	773-772	Mar	625-620		
Vol: 6604		Vol: 3792		Vol: 1882	

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT Close (£/t)		BARLEY Close (£/t)		HI-PRO SOYA Close (£/t)	
Mar	129.00	Mar	117.85	Apr	116.0-14.5
May	131.45	May	121.50	Jun	114.0-13.0
Jun	133.40	Sep	106.60	Aug	116.0-15.0
Sep	109.50	Nov	110.50	Oct	119.0-18.0
Nov	112.50	Jan	113.55	Dec	124.0-22.0
Vol:	465	Vol:	62	Vol:	130

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Volume: 447

	Open:	Close:
Apr ($/tonne)	127.0	131.0
May	150.0	157.3

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 5

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	83.23	153.14	107.83
(+/-)	-0.06	+2.74	+1.39
Eng/Wales:	83.09	153.75	105.89
(+/-)	-0.46	+2.78	+1.46
(%)	+8.1	-11.1	-13.8
Scotland:	84.39	149.54	109.75
(+/-)	+1.77	+1.33	+1.16
(%)	-68.3	-41.5	-13.1

** Estimated dead carcase weight*

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (/kg)

Mar	
Open:	unq
Close:	113.3
Apr	
Open:	unq
Close:	111.8
May	
Open:	unq
Close:	111.0

Volume: 30

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 6.00pm:

Levels inched upwards in anticipation of bullish stats in tonights API inventory figures.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.95	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.45	-0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	18.75	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.35	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.95	+0.25

PRODUCTS (Buy/sell $/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas 1.5	253 (+8)	255 (+8)
Gasoil EEC	199 (+1)	201 (-2)
Non EEC 1H Mar	209 (+2)	210 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Apr	183 (n/c)	187 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	72 (n/c)	74 (n/c)
Naphtha	221 (-4)	226 (-4)

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL

Mar	169.50-69.00	Jul	166.50-65.00
Apr	174.50-74.00	Aug	169.00-65.00
May	168.50-67.50	Sep	170.50-65.00
Jun	165.50-64.00		Vol: 5539

BRENT

Mar	20.80-20.70	May	18.65-18.75
Apr	19.50-19.60		Vol: n/a

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 91	1680	1655	1680
Apr 91	1496	1485	1497
Jul 91	1178	1175	1179
Oct 91	1270	1270	1270

Vol: 257 lots Open interest: 3952
Dry cargo index: 1726 +12

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1278.0-1279.0	1286.0-1287.0	Vol:369925
Lead (£/tonne)	315.00-315.50	327.00-327.50	5700
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1218.0-1219.0	1209.0-1210.0	125900
Tin ($/tonne)	5545-5550	5645-5647	5470
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1540.0-1541.0	1571.0-1572.0	338375
Nickel ($/tonne)	8480.0-8481.0	8475.0-8480.0	12144

FOX MGMI INDEX

(5pm prices)

	Bid	Offer
Mar	157.20	157.90
Apr	157.50	158.00
May	157.50	157.70

Vol: 485

Agencies that have the personnel touch

Finding a suitable agency to sell your skills to the right people is the key to getting a good job, **Beryl Dixon** writes

ALAN WELLER

Direct approach: Stella Boyd-Carpenter's agency considers only secretaries who have at least six years' experience

Choosing the right secretarial agency from the many offering to find you a job can be difficult. How do you know whether or not the agency you have chosen is one that will pull out all the stops on your behalf, and can you be sure that it has the right kind of employers on its books?

Some people automatically head for the larger agencies, believing that they have better employer contacts. Others prefer smaller companies, thinking that they will get a more personal service. Neither assumption is correct; there are excellent and not-so-good agencies of every size. What matters is finding one in which you feel happy with the treatment you receive.

If you want to be sure of speaking to the same consultant every time, this is more likely at an agency with fewer staff, or in a larger branch where consultants often have their own case loads.

One of the first things you will want to know is the number and spread of the agency's clients. How many does it deal with? Does it specialise in a particular field or does it cover a broad spectrum? Does the agency visit the employers in person and does it have a full understanding of their requirements?

If so, should you be sent for interview, you will know that you are definitely on a shortlist. One London recruitment consultant, who asks to remain anonymous, says: "Some of my competitors frankly do not preselect and that wastes everyone's time. They simply pick out 20 likely-looking CVs and send them to the employer."

When an agency makes a practice of drawing up careful shortlists it will put you through lengthy tests and interviews before taking you on its books. Far from being an insult to you, this is an indication of care on their part. It does mean, however,. that when you first visit an agency, you should attend dressed as though for a real job interview.

At least one consultancy codes applicants' files with symbols relating to dress, appearance and manner. An agency priding itself on a personal touch will also try to discover facets of the candidates' personalities and question them about the type of person they prefer as a superior.

The small size of an agency does not mean that it does not have the time or resources to do any of the above.

The London consultancy, Directors' Secretaries, has seven staff recruiting in a specialist market. Stella Boyd-Carpenter, a senior consultant, says: "As we are recruiting for directors, we are looking for people with previous experience at board or near board level. We take on to our books only secretaries with at least six years' experience working at senior management level — that usually makes them 26 or 27 — and they must have the good, old-fashioned skills directors expect, such as at least 100-words-a-minute-shorthand. Our clients range from a one-man show to some of the leading companies in the country."

The Judy Fisher agency, also in London, was established by Judy Fisher and Margaret Mills. With six staff, it works only in the arts and media.

Both consultancies believe in establishing close relationships with clients. "For example, I think the CV thing has got out of hand," Miss Mills says. "Our nightmare is a personnel department saying, 'Send us some CVs to look through'. We prefer the sort of relationship where we can ring and say, 'There is one here that doesn't quite meet your criteria, but I think you should consider the person, because . . .' Our job, is to preselect. We like to send no more than three CVs. Of course, if the client wants more we will do so, or if the first three are not right then we will send a further three or four."

Mrs Boyd-Carpenter also mentions the 'chemistry' factor. "We like to meet the director in order to assess his or her personality and what kind of person would be right as a PA. Few object; they positively enjoy being 'interviewed' and being able to give us a full picture. Even so, we cannot know whether two people will take to each other.

"We try never to send more than two or three for interview, and where we are reason ably confident, just one. It is amazing how often we can do it in one. A client rings up and says, 'Marvellous', but they do not realise how much hard work went on first at this end."

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THE PERSONAL TOUCH

☎ 071-481 4481

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He needs a PA to work alongside him, to help him through the pressures of modern day success. You must be well organised, with a steady track record and above all have a strong, vibrant personality. Speeds 100/70. Age about 30.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
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£9,500-£13,500

As a major force in Media Recruitment Christopher Keats recruits for most of the

FILM, TV, ADVERTISING, PR, MAGAZINE & BOOK

Companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, call one of our Specialist Consultants on:

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c £14,000

This successful furniture design company is looking for an efficient secretary with plenty of initiative. This is a good opportunity to become fully involved in a small growing company where you will use your fast accurate typing and WP skills to the full. An eye for detail and presentation, a confident manner and a good team attitude are essential.

Please call 071 499 6566 to discuss this position in more detail

The GROSVENOR Bureau

£18,000 in SW1

This Vice-Chairman has a reputation for acquiring a volume of important paperwork. On the Main Board of a leading international holdings company he also holds other directorships and non executive appointments and is well known in city circles. All this means his PA has to run his office to clockwork precision and because of the heavy workload he now needs an additional PA. Setting up executive lunches, juggling complicated meeting timetables and managing the different office systems will be among your responsibilities.

Ideally aged between 30 and 45, you will have had main board experience within a plc and will want a true support role at senior level but out of the limelight. Discretion, loyalty and a team spirit are essential.

Skills: 100/60 + audio + WP skills
Hours: 10am-6pm
Angela Mortimer, 37 Golden Square, London W1R 4AH.
Tel: 071-287 7788

ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

An experienced secretary, with a good command of French, required for the Managing Director. We are a small subsidiary of an International Perfumery & Cosmetics Company.

You will need to have at least five years secretarial experience in a senior position and will probably be between the ages of 28 and 45.

You will have good communication and organisational skills, have very accurate typing skills and show meticulous attention to detail. You will need to be fluent in French to at least 'A' level, if not degree standard.

Salary commensurate with experience, 4 weeks holiday, subsidised canteen and a product allocation allowance.

Write or fax enclosing details to Christine Foley, Personnel Department, 22 Aintree Road, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 7LP. Fax 081 887 3580.

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To work for the Operations and Finance Department. Responsibilities will include contacting stores, liaising with contractors (in relation to store maintenance), collating information from stores, producing presentation packs and general secretarial duties.

The ideal candidate will be familiar with Apple Mac, be capable of working on own initiative and have a lively, outgoing personality. In return we offer a competitive salary and benefits including a generous staff discount across the group (BHS, Mothercare, Habitat, Richards).

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Salary £15,000

Based in very smart, impressive W1 offices, become PA/Secretary to two charming executives. They seek a well organised secretary who will act as an assistant and take on responsibility. Free lunch and early salary reviews. You'll need 80/50 skills and ideally be aged 30+.

Please telephone 071 240 3511
2/3 Bedford Street, Covent Garden,
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Senior Secr, conversational German, Sal upto £16.5K Firm of Ch. Accountants in Central London req. exp. secr to assist 1 partner & 2 mgrs. Eng MT, Exc. T/WP/SH ess. Age 25-40.

Scandinavian Secr. Central London, Sal. £16K + travel ben. Assist the admin. mgr. of this Scandinavian firm with varied secretarial duties. T/WP/ skills ess.

French speaking Senior Sec, Investment Banking, £18K pckg. Secr. support to one director and an associate. Bank in Central London. T/rusty Sh. Exc. presentation. Age 24-35.

57 BROMPTON ROAD KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON SW3 1DP
TELEPHONE: (071) 823 9233

MEDICAL SECS
£12,000+ AAE

Previous medical experience preferred along with audio skills (SH useful). Additional allowances given to secretaries with an Amspar Diploma or Certificate.

071 251 2081
Keystone Recruitment

LANGUAGES £17,000 + TRAVEL BENEFITS

Use your French and Italian daily working for a dynamic 36 year old. He is vice president of an international company controlling interests in some of the world's most luxurious hotels and travel services.

Your objective is to make sure he is effective in his role. This means handling his complex travel itineraries, liaising with overseas offices and managing the office in his absence. You should enjoy the pressure of peaks and troughs and have some experience of working for a frenetic live-wire. Aged between 25 and 33 with a minimum of five years' solid secretarial experience, you must be numerate with good geographical awareness and have a quick, lively and tolerant personality.

Skills: 80/60.

Angela Mortimer, 37 Golden Square, London W1R 4AH.
Tel. 071-287 7788

ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

The Language Specialists

FRENCH SELF-STARTER

An excellent sec with a strong sales & marketing background req'd by intl French Co in Kensington. Run the show whilst your boss is away & handle the clients' file on your own initiative (extensive telephone liaison). Excl opp for dynamic individual prepared to get involved in every aspect of the business. SH not ess. £17,000 + bons.

GERMAN VENTURE

Intl co based in SW1 are recruiting for a German sec, to work for a Commercial Manager. Excl sec skills together with gd exp are ess for full involvement. Eng SH. Mid 20's. £14,500 aae.

RETURNING TO WORK?

Looking for a way back into bilingual secretarial work after a break in your career? Excl opp has arisen within this world renown congenial co as sec to specialist division head. Full range of sec duties & any of the following languages ess for constant client liaison Europe-wide French/Italian/Spanish or German. c 35 yrs. c £13,500 + benefits.

MERROW EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
071-499 3939
73 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DD

Public Relations
£16,000

A highly successful PR agency is urgently looking for a professional and stylish PA to assist their joint Managing Directors.

They need someone with strong organisational and administrative skills, who can draft correspondence, handle their clients and the media effectively, work closely on new business development and on the running of the office.

Personality and energy are essential to cope with the variety and hectic work environment. Experience in marketing or a related service industry would be useful.

Skills: 80/60. Age 23-35.
Hanover Square Division: 071-408 1461.

ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

DYNAMIC DUO - £24,000 Package

He's dynamic, demanding and sometimes difficult - but a hugely successful young banker well thought of in the City. He is ambitious and has plans for even greater achievement.

He needs a PA to work alongside him, to help him through the pressures of modern day success. You must be well organised, with a steady track record and above all have a strong, vibrant personality. Speeds 100/70. Age about 30.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
0800 833104

MARKETING SECRETARY/ COSMETICS
£14,000

World famous cosmetics company need a secretary to assist their Marketing Director. Exciting, varied role requiring a highly organised approach, good communication skills and well groomed appearance. A minimum 2 years secretarial experience, 80/60 skills and O'levels ideal.

Please call 071-499 8070

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1ST CLASS SECRETARY FOR AUTHOR

Is required with very good secretarial skills. Fast speeds in shorthand and typing also computer skills desirable.
Excellent salary
plus benefits.
For further information
please apply in
writing enclosing full CV and
two references

to Box No 2945

Mature Bookkeeper/ Secretary up to £14,000 aae

City based IT facilities management group seeks an experienced Bookkeeper. Secretarial skills a must to assist with Marketing Admin. Flexible hours to suit the right applicant. Macintosh experience an asset although full training supplied.

Call Sarah Francis on 071 250 1934

The Vernon Consultancy, 6 St Johns Place, London EC1M 4DH

POLITICS - £15,000 PA with excellent S/H and an interest in Politics to work for org based in Westminster. Must be flexible. Very good with people and have an excellent work record to date along with admin experience. Age 30's. Norma Skemp Recruitment 071-222-5091.

MUSIC Lovers! Would you enjoy working in a small charitable organisation with a friendly team of young secretaries we require a young sec with S/H who is good with people, well educated and live centrally. Suitable for 1st Jobber - £10,000. Norma Skemp Recruitment 071-222-5091.

PA Secretary to Int Business man SW10 Aged 28-35. Skills 100/50/WP. Salary £18,000. **GERMAN** Speaking W.P. OP £15,000 + Banking Benefits. 1 Yr UK Exp. Ursula Miller 071-734-2693 Stockton Rec Cons.

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£10,000 18-22 yrs

Both positions are with upmarket RETAIL CO. in plush prestigious MAYFAIR offices. Applicants must have immaculate presentation and be prepared to work some shift hours. Advisory Emp. Agy (Bond St.) 071-495 1111.

SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS
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The Managing Director of this well known French cosmetics house seeks bright and outgoing secretary to assist in all aspects of his work. A good working knowledge of French and MD/director level experience are essential requirements along with a high degree of professionalism and commitment.

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Fax: 071 491 2875
Recruitment Consultants

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£18,000 PKG AT 21

Top Investment Bank is looking for a top PA/Sec to work in Corporate Finance.

You should be educated to 'A' level standard, have excellent secretarial skills, be a team player and city experience is useful.

If you want to earn a substantial salary and work for a Company where your job is secure, please ring urgently.

Skills: 90/60 Age: 20-22
Hanover Square 071-408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Figure Happy?
to £16,000 + 4K pkge

A very special Asset Management firm using new technology to the full to provide the best service to clients needs a very special Assistant. Monitoring fund performance and preparing information for presentation requires creativity, a mind for figures and an eye for layout. Fast typing and the ability to juggle computer/database systems are essential, as is enthusiasm and commitment to your work.
Age 22-26, you need science/maths-based A levels and ideally financial experience.

Please telephone Catherine Ferguson on 071 588 3535

Crone Corkill
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Salary circa £17,000 plus benefits

If you're intelligent, mature, confident, happy to take responsibility, unflappable under pressure, possessing first class secretarial, organisation and administrative skills, then please write to us.
We are a small but successful marketing and PR consultancy, part of a publicly quoted group, and we are looking for the right person to help us in the development of our business from its current well-established client base, Preferred age range 25-50.
Please write enclosing cv, personal details, current salary and availability to:

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Communications In Business Group Limited
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(No Agencies)

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Are you looking for work? We are keen to meet some enthusiastic and committed temps who will enhance our already professional temporary team. We establish a close working relationship with temps and clients alike and pride ourselves on matching the right temp to the right assignment. We really appreciate our temps' loyalty and in addition to competitive hourly rates, offer a holiday bonus. Good skills (90/60) and experience of Multimate, DW4, MS Word, Wang or Digital essential. Please telephone one of our temporary controllers for an appointment. 071 256 5018 (City) or 071 437 6032 (West End).

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START—UP IN DESIGN
TO £14,000+

An excellent opportunity for a secretary with several years' experience to assist the Sales Director of a well-established company to set up a new office in a beautiful square in the West End. Working on your own initially, and rapidly progressing to a full PA role. Skills 80/60. Age 24+.

Senior Secretaries
173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB
071-499 0092
(Fax: 071-491 7278)
Recruitment Consultants

RECEPTIONIST/ JUNIOR SECRETARY

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OPUS Rec Cons

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Professor A. Munro Neville,
Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research,
Stadelhoferstrasse 22,
8001 Zurich, Switzerland.
TEL: 010 411 251 5377.
FAX: 010 411 251 5438
from whom details may be obtained.

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Send CV to:
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Att: Annick
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FRENCH Initiative, poise and confidence are essential to organise the hectic trading department of this French Finance Company. This is a busy and challenging role, involving the arrangement of international meetings, co-ordinating travel itineraries and providing a focal point for the dynamic European team. The position offers superb opportunities for a career in international finance and would suit a bright, young secretary with excellent French, solid secretarial skills and the desire to progress in a truly European environment. Excellent salary and benefits. Finesse Europe (Rec Cons) 071-734 2808.

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Closing date for applications is: 20 March 1991

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(University of London)
SECRETARY
(salary up to £13,000)

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SUPER SECRETARIES

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£16,000 & Total Involvement working with the Financial Controller of this prestigious international company. As well as providing full secretarial support, your interest in DTPs/computers and your knowledge of Lotus 123 will be put to full use. WP=DW4. Financial/accountancy experience essential. Age 23-29. Skills 80/55. The Recruitment Company 071 831 1220

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required for small, friendly American City law firm.
To work for managing partner and associate. Experience of administering small, local area network is a pre-requisite for this position. Audio essential with minimum typing speed of 60 wpm.

Salary negotiable according to age and experience.

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PART Time Careers Ltd. We have vacancies available for S/H or audio secretaries, accountants/ book-keepers manual and computerised, accounts clerks and receptionists. If you are seeking a part-time permanent job in central London working mornings/ afternoons. 1/2/3 or 4 days per week or part of every day. Phone Part-Time Careers for an appointment on 071-437 3105. 10 Golden Square. London W1

Above par homes on the golf course

Country estates are turning into leisure complexes with luxury housing, says Christopher Warman

Forecasts of increased leisure time suggest that hundreds more golf courses are needed. Farmers are among those putting forward farmland for courses, and the owners of many large estates who cannot maintain their mansions are considering golf as an alternative use. A hotel is often an integral part of the schemes, and housing is incorporated in a growing number of them as well.

Ruaraidh Adams-Cairns, a director of Savills' mixed development department, says the trend of building houses beside courses is likely to continue. His department has recently researched the British market, gathering information on about 50 new mixed residential and golf developments covering more than 20,000 acres. The evidence is that most have 18 holes, more than 80 per cent have a hotel and just over half incorporate a leisure centre.

Mr Adams-Cairns says: "This is a relatively typical combination of different land uses in line with southern European schemes, reflecting the growing importance of leisure time as part of our lives. More people will be able to afford better-quality leisure facilities and will also want to live in a green environment."

Hundreds of golf courses without housing are being proposed but only a fraction are likely to be built. Many are refused planning permission and others are not financially sound propositions.

Mr Adams-Cairns says the greatest demand, much of it in the southeast, is in areas where land is in shortest supply and planning permission most difficult to obtain. He says: "These schemes, once they get planning consent, are much more likely to be built because the sale of housing will finance the golf course and other infrastructure costs."

"The number of projects in hand indicates that developers have accepted the advantage of this trend despite the weakness of the housing market. They believe these houses will sell into a progressively more discerning market and should benefit from an improving economy when they come on to the market in the next 18 months.

Savills wants more than £8 million for Orchardleigh Park, near Bath, Avon, a 420-acre estate that has consent for a hotel in the mansion, a large modern hotel near by and two courses with a clubhouse. An alternative to the modern hotel is a courtyard-style housing scheme. The Victorian mansion has consent for conversion to a 34-bedroom hotel. The scheme requires few structural alterations, allowing many existing architectural features to be restored. The new hotel has been designed in sympathy with the existing stable block, garden house and cottage and walled garden.

James Devitt, head of Savills' hotel and leisure division, realises the scheme is controversial but says: "Great care has been taken to ensure that it does not overdevelop or spoil the overall appearance of the existing park and mansion."

Pannington Hall, a Grade II listed 16th century house near Ipswich, Suffolk, is at the centre of a 465-acre estate on which a scheme is proposed involving 27 holes of golf and a clubhouse and a restaurant converted from the farm buildings. The scheme includes a swimming pool and a health centre, and the estate cottages provide residential accommodation. Humberts Leisure wants offers of about £1.5 million.

At Hoddom Castle in Dumfries there is a proposal for one of Scotland's largest developments, providing two golf courses, a conference hall, a hotel, shops and 600 holiday homes. The plan, from the Liverpool architects Cass Associates, has been approved by Dumfries and Galloway regional council, and includes a new village centred on the 16th century castle. The golf courses were designed by Tony Jacklin.

An essential part of the scheme is is an improvement plan for the estate, involving new trees, the restoration of historic features and nature conservation.

In the Irish Republic, Dromoland Castle at Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co Clare, the ancestral seat of the High King of Ireland Brian Boru, is an established international hotel with an 18-hole golf course in its 350 acres. At the moment, between the second and eighth fairways, 15 two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes in neo-classic gatehouse style are being built, each in a third of an acre.

The aim is to give owners not only a home but also the lifestyle associated with a country house. Owners will have a right to free golf for five years, fishing, pheasant-shooting, duck-shooting and horse-riding. Rental management can be arranged, and the houses, eight miles from Shannon airport, are priced from IR£190,000 (about £177,000) through Hamilton Osborne King, of Dublin.

The setting for North Lodge in Esher, Surrey, is more modest but has the advantage of membership of Clare Hill golf club. North Lodge, an early 18th century lodge house that has been extensively refurbished, has two reception rooms and three bedrooms, and is ten minutes' walk from the town centre. Mann & Co, of Esher, is asking £225,000.

Stately but ripe for conversion: the mansion is planned as a 34-bedroom hotel to serve golf courses on the Orchardleigh Park estate

IN THE MARKET

☐ No 2, Maids of Honour Row, Richmond, Surrey, is a Grade I listed terrace house built in 1724 by the Prince of Wales, later George II, for his wife's maids in waiting. The house, overlooking the green, is the biggest in Maids of Honour Row and the only one with a third-floor extension, inlcuding a two-bedroom staff flat.

With a 31ft drawing room, and panelling throughout the main rooms, the house has been fully restored and includes a reception hall, a dining room, a sitting room, a study and eight bedrooms. Knight Frank & Rutley is asking about £1.5 million.

☐ The Old School at Donyatt, near Ilminster, Somerset, dates from 1871 and stands close to the church at the centre of the village. This Grade II listed house, converted from a school about 20 years ago, has a 36ft living room, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Jackson-Stops & Staff's Yeovil office is seeking £145,000.

☐ The Cannons at West Caister, Norfolk, comes complete with a pair of Napoleonic cannons and a well house, which is a listed monument built in 1835 with stonework from a 14th-century nunnery, in the 1.5-acre grounds. The Grade II listed house, standing in 1.5 acres, dates from the 17th century and was given its name at the turn of the century by a retired naval captain who installed the cannons as a reminder of his seafaring days.

The original cannons were melted during the second world war for military use. They were replaced in 1952 by a pair salvaged from the wreck of a Napoleonic frigate.

The accommodation includes four reception rooms, eight bedrooms, two self-contained flats and a two-bedroom annexe. Bidwell's Norwich office gives a guide price of £240,000.

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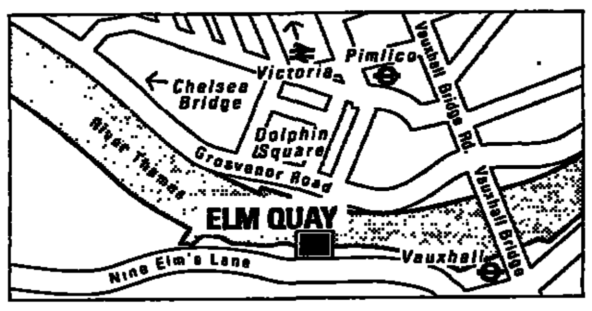


- ●Swimming pool and leisure centre
- ●Riverside Location
- ●9½% Mortgage Subsidy
- ●50/50 Home Purchase Plan

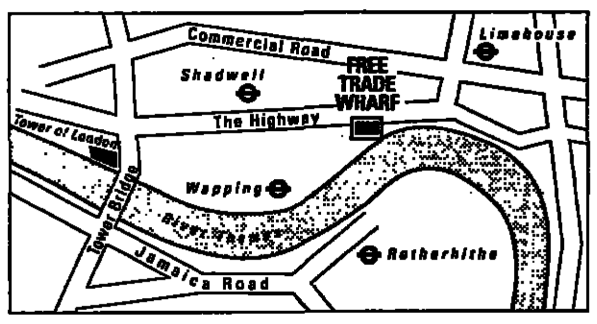
●1 bedroom	~~£ 95,000*~~	£ 85,500*
●2 bedrooms	~~£112,000*~~	£100,800*
●3 bedrooms	~~£189,000*~~	£170,100*

*The half price payable now, using 50/50 Plan
Tel: 071-498 0564

◆

FREE TRADE WHARF, E1

340 THE HIGHWAY, WAPPING



- ●Swimming pool and leisure centre
- ●Riverside Location
- ●9½% Mortgage Subsidy
- ●50/50 Home Purchase Plan

●1 bedroom	~~£87,000*~~	£ 62,500*
●2 bedrooms	~~£125,000*~~	£ 90,000*
●3 bedrooms	~~£168,500*~~	£127,500*

*The half price payable now, using 50/50 Plan
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NORTH OF THE THAMES

Ellis & Co

DEVONPORT, HYDE PK EST, W2
Oustanding penthse with spec views across London. 3 beds, 3 baths, 2 recs, lux kit. Long lse. £549,000.

ALBION MEWS, W2
Charming period hse in cobbled mews. Comp renov from basemt to 750 sq ft roof terr. 3 recs, 3 beds, 2 baths, sauna, kit/b rm. Freehold £485,000.

QUEENSWAY, W2
Huge rec, refurbished 2 dbl bed 2nd flr apart in superb p/b blk. 23 ft rec, 16 x 14 ent hall, 2 baths. Priced for immediate sale £162,000

BEAUMONT ST, W1
2nd flr 2 bed apart within popular p/b blk. Porterage, u/grnd pkg, lift. 76 yr lse, reduced to £155,000

QUEENSWAY, W2
Must be sold. Recently conv 2 bed flat in p/b blk. Superb condition, lift. Long lse £135,000.

HYDE PARK OFFICE - 071 724 1222

ASKEW CRESCENT W12. Luxury 3/4 bedroom Victorian house original features, 2 receps. £154,950 F/H. Collingwoods 081 743 8741.

BAYSWATER Huge lux mansion flat. lift. porter. 2 dble beds. 23' rec. large kit/break rm. bathroom + sep shower room. £162,500 Granville 1, Hereford Road, W2 071 221 4936.

BETHNAL GREEN E2. 1 dbl bed flat in waterlow. Views over park and city. 10 mins bank 2 mins tb. £65K. 081 203 5049.

EALING COMMON 1 bed flat. newly decorated, off street parking. 2 mins walk from Piccadilly line, new kitchen, bathroom, carpets. £68,000. 081 993 9678 or 0860 783 610.

FULHAM SW6. delightful two bedroomed lease hold garden flat. £86,950. Telephone 071-736 2206(w) 071-711 3448.

LITTLE VENICE (Best Rd). Stunning 2 bed, 1st flr conversion o'looking 2 acre com gdn. Lge kit/ b'fast room, host of period features. Must be viewed. £229,950 share f/h. SPC 071-289 0038. T.

MAIDA VALE p/b 2 bed flt. £137,500. Warwick Ave 2 bed flat. £85,000. 071 286 5787 L.

MARYLEBONE HIGH ST Strathray House. Attractive 2 bedroom flat in need of some refurbishment for sale. 37 year lease. £82,500. Please contact White Druce & Brown 071 629 2102

OFF PORTOBELLO ROAD Freehold mews house. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. lounge/dining room, garage. gate entry. free parking. £245,000. Tel: 071-727 9084.

PIMLICO Large, sunny, 4 storey town house within ranging distance of Sloane Square. Unusual layout, original Victorian features, large wine cellars. Must sell £410,000. Phone 071-828 3661 (Sunday 071-289 9471).

QUEEN'S GARDENS W2 1st floor balcony flat, newly decorated. 3 bed. 2 bathrooms, equipped kitchen. central heating. lift. unfurnished. £215,000. Tel 071-262 0178.

SEDGEFORD RD W12. Luxury 4 bedroom Victorian house original features. 70' rear garden. £159,950 F/H. Collingwoods 081 743 8741.

ST JOHN'S WOOD Luxury 3 bed. 2 reception, 2 bath flat. Near Park. GCH. D/glazing. Jacuzzi. 110 yrs. Quick sale poss. £220,000. 071-722 4305.

TOWN HOUSE SW6 Exc cond 4 bed. Valuation £246,000. Owner must sell. Offers? No Agents. Tel: 071 731 0889.

URGENT SALE required. Avenue Road, St. John's Wood. Prestigous house with private garden. Recently valued at £1.5m. Asking price £985,000. Private sale. Tel: 071 436 2572 Only serious offers entertained.

WESTMINSTER - Pimlico tube 2 mins. Newly refurb mnsn block flat. 2 dble beds. 22' recep. bed 3/study. large kit. GCH. £159,000. 071-630 7118 (h) 071-280 2262 (w).

WESTMINSTER SW1 A perfectionist's dream. 4 bed. 4 bath. 2 receps. Custom built kitchen. 6 floors. p/b. 24 hr porterage. Parking. Freehold. £410,000 or let £1,000pw. 071-828 8712.

WESTMINSTER Spacious 4th fl studio flt ready to walk into. Low s.c. lse 90 yrs £69,950 Hunter Estates 071 828 2145.

W6 Wingate Rd Immac refurb fam hse in sought after location. 4 bed. 2 bath, sitting rm. study. din rm. kit/brk. utility. Period features. 70' mature walled gdn. £349,950. 081 743 0488.

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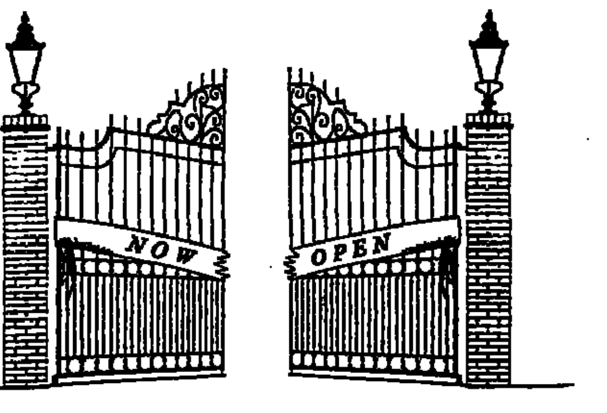

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The showhome is open seven days a week, 10–5 or you can telephone 071-252 5707 for brochure and full details.

Vestry Mews

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** Integral Garage * Garden*
** Gated Entrance*

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FOR VIEWING APPOINTMENT

BARBICAN EC2 Undeniably the largest selection of flats for sale. Studios from £63,000. one bed from £85,000. two/three beds from £120,000. Call Frank Harris & Co 071 387 0077.

BARBICAN — Prestigious Town House. 4/5 bedrooms, garage and roof garden, 115 yr lease. £460,000 ono - Edwin Hill & Partners 071-387 9796.

BLOOMSBURY Bargain. Share F/H. 2 bed lux flat. WC1 georgian hse. Own patio & gdn. £99,000. No offers. 071-286 8040.

WEST ONE Apartment selection. Hallam St. Studio £55,000. George St. 1 bed. £115,000. Seymour St. 4 beds. £199,950. Horne & Sons 071 499 9344.

BELGRAVIA & KNIGHTBRIDGE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE Luxury P/hse mais 3 beds. 2 baths. 2 recs. kit. huge tce LL £500,000. Holmans 071 370 6781.

CHELSEA & KENSINGTON

CHELSEA SW3
Delightful 3 bedroom mews cottage with original cornicing and fireplaces. Small garden and Victorian conservatory.
Long lease.
£330,000
Tel: 071-629 4212

BOLTON GDNS Lovely flat 2 beds, 2 baths, rec. kit. £225,000 Holmans 071 370 6781.

CHELSEA SW10. Well situated immaculate garden flat. 2 bed. 2 bath. Modern kitchen. all appliances included. 50 ft garden. Long lease. £188,000. Tel: 071-351 1149

CHELSEA SW3 Stunning 2 bed penthouse. Prestige block. 24hr porterage. 110 yr lease. £230,000. 071-584 5788.

CHELSEA - Park Walk. Pretty 1st flr flat. 2 dbl beds, beautifully furnished and equipped. £255 pw Tel: 071 373 1548

CHELSEA. Enormous Mais. 4 beds, 3 baths. 30ft recept. short lease £144,000. 071-376 4501

HARCOURT TERRACE Superb self contained garden flat, totally refurbished. 2 large bedrooms. 3rd bedroom/ study. main reception room. dining area. 2 bathrooms. terrace. patio. £229,500. Tel: 071-835 1514.

PALACE MANSIONS W14 beautiful large newly refurbished 3 double bed. 2 bath. long lease flat. Fully fitted Zanussi and Bosch Kitchen. £235,000. Tel:071 602 4702.

PENTHOUSE. Lux 300,000 sq ft. panoramic views Holland Park. £100,000 reduction. now only £795,000. 071-605 4226

RAWLINGS ST. SW3. 5 beds. 2 baths, kit/b'fast rm, lounge. dining rm, utility rm. garden. £385,000 F/H. 071-589 0946

SOUTH KENSINGTON desperate seller, very spacious. delightful 3 beds apartment. Garden views. balcony. high ceilings. large reception. £269,000. (H) 071-370 1791.

SW7 Quiet loc. Mews house. 3 bedrms. 2 reception. large garage. Private parking. 5 mins French Lycée. Leasehold £269,000. Tel 071-373 4241.

Quraishi Constantine

KENSINGTON SW5 Charming 2 dbl bedroom flat in exc. cond. nr u/ground, shops etc. Was £127,000 Now £120,000.

KENSINGTON HIGH ST W8 Newly decorated 2 beds, 1 with ensuite bath, sep shower, porterage. CH/CHW £170,000

W14 Good block with porterage short distance from Ken High St. 1 Dbl bed, 30' rec. CH/CHW. Was £158,000 now £122,500 for quick sale.

071 376 2566

CHELSEA
Spacious 3 bed, 2 bathroom flat. Fully fitted kitchen. Off street parking. Good decorative order. Balcony. Entryphone. Lift. Porterage. £155,000.
071-351 0766.

W14
Frhld 4 bed. family house. 2 baths and sep. shower. Large drawing and kitchen/ breakfast room. 40ft garden. £285,000.
Tel: 071-603 5682
w/e or evenings.

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE

BELSIZE PARK- 1st fl flat down from £129,950 to £109,950. 2 beds, recept. Kit, Bath. Best buy around ? Tel: 081-885 8650.

HAMPSTEAD Garden suburb. lge lux newly dec semi. nr Heath extension. 4 beds. bath. ff kit/breakfast. 34ft lounge/ dining. 2nd wc. fgch. 80ft gdn. 5 mins tube/amenities. FH £320,000. Tel: 081-455 1682.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH NW3 Superb 1st & 2nd floor (top) maisonette in character filled refurbished residence nestling on ege of Heath. Totally modernised with 26' x 22' living room. f/f lux kit. 3 bedrms, 2 luxury bathrooms (1 ensuite) fitted carpets. GCH. Approx 124 year lease. £240,000. Sole Agents Anscombe & Ringland 071 794 1161

HAMPSTEAD. backing Heath. Top floor conversion in s/d period property with original features close amenities. Some refurbishment req. Private entrance. 3 good bedrms. kit/diner. 21'x 20' recep, sth w fcng balc. fine views, bathrm, sep wc. Gd lease. £189,950 Salter Rex 071 431 1881

HIGHGATE charming, very sunny 2 bed ground floor garden flat. between tube and village. Large rooms. huge windows. high ceilings, period features, stripped pine floors. 60ft south facing garden. cellar. £146,000. Tel: 081 348 2304.

KENTISH TOWN NW5. Bright 1st floor 2 bed flat. recent conversion. New kitchen & bath. Original fireplace. Excellent tube/buses. Close shops. gym & health. Ideal first time buy. Bargain £79,500. 071-284 1180

WILLOUGHBY RD NW3. Attractive 2 bed grnd flr flat in village. £120,000. 071-435 6020

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BECKENHAM
Situated in Beckenham Place Park. 7 bedrooms, 3 receptions, 2 bathrooms, detached double fronted Neo-Georgian house. Adaptable accomodation to South Wing. ¼ acre landscaped grounds with swimming pool. 2 double garages. £580,000 Freehold.
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CLAPHAM COMMON (Westclose to). 5 minutes tube. exquisite ground floor. 2 beds flat. Drawing room. fitted kitchen. tiled bathroom. recently refurbished. private garden. £108,000. Tel: 071-738 0480.

CLAPHAM SOUTH Spacious. sunny 3 bed. 3 recep Victorian terrace house. retaining all period features. Working fireplaces. Secluded garden. Close to tube. Substantially reduced £120,000. Tel: 081-675 6107.

FOREST HILL/BR 12mins London Bridge. Character Edwardian 5 bed family house. Stunning master bed with en suite. Established gardens. £185,000. 081-291 6566.

KENNINGTON Unique very spacious 2 bed maisonette. opposite Park with walled patio gdn. 2 receptions. study/utility. kit. bath. £129,500 ono. Tel: Day & evenings 071 582 0167.

LAVENDER SWEEP 4 mins Clapham Junction. Post war house. 3 beds, 2 recept. conserv. 25' garden. No chain. £99,990. Tel: 071 228 6077.

SW12. Nr tube. 2 dble bed. light. spacious. quiet resid road. £78K. 081-675 7345 E/Wa.

SW12. beautiful interior designed 3 bed first floor flat & gdn. £117,000. 081-994 4828.

SW16 4 bed. 1 bath. 2 recep. k/diner. conserv. orig features (marble fireplaces). stripped pine doors/floors. £138,000 F/H. 081-769 6915.

TULSE HILL. Massive, detached. double fronted. 5 bedroom. Victorian family house with large rear garden and front parking. Gch. freehold. £245,000. Volker & Volker 081-761 6225.

WANDSWORTH 1 bed grnd flr flat with patio. GCH. £69,950 ono. Tel 081-874 6313 eves.

WANDSWORTH COMMON Quiet tree lined rd off common. Lge semi-det dble fronted Vic Res now totally restored. Orig features retained. 6 bedrms. 2 bathrms + shwr rm, 32' drawing rm, dining rm, lge kit/b'fast rm, 45' s/f gdn. £475,000 FH. Laine Toners 071-223 2985.

DULWICH

SPRING SALE
Tremendous bargain!
4 bed, end terrace, spacious house. Delightful garden, cloaks, bath/jacuzzi, large kitchen, 2 recep, garage. Good position for schools, commuting.
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WIMBLEDON

NEAR COMMON. 4 bed. 2 recep. 2 bath. garage, large garden. excellent condition. £235,000. Tel: 081-789 4824.

WIMBLEDON, SW19. 3/4 bed. 1/2 rec grnd floor mansion flat. excellent decorative order. many original features. 5 mins walk to village and station. large communal gardens. OIRO £127,500. Tel: 081-879 3052.

WIMBLEDON Huge 3 bed flat. Quiet rd. Own gdn garage Many extras. Stunning living accom. £175,000 071 495 4446 day

WIM'DON PK 3 dble bedrm Edwardian hse with all orig features. CH, rewired, new roof. re-planned. Quiet tree lined Rd. 5 mins Dist. line. shops & park. Needs redec & part kit fitted. £140,000 ono for quick sale. Tel 081-947 5019

WIM'DON PK 3 dble bedrm Edwardian hse with all orig features. CH, rewired, new roof. re-plumbed. Quiet tree lined Rd. 5 mins Dist. line. shops & park. Needs redec & part kit fitted. S facing gdn. £140,000 ono for quick sale. Tel 081-947 5019

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In the most sought after road in Greenwich directly overlooking the park stands a particularly bright, spacious and unusually attractive Georgian house, built in C. 1695 for Sir Thomas Skinner. 3 spectacular receps (2) 22'x 17' with beautiful views. (1) 16'x12' 3 lge bedrms (1) 22'x16' (2) 17'x13' with 2 en suites. Plus study/bed 4. Light breakfast rm onto 50' South West walled gdn. Private courtyard, parking for 2 cars within wrought iron gates. Many period features including original fireplaces & staircases. River bus, BR & DLR 5 mins walk. Just on market this week at £485,000. View today Please call:
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CAVERSHAM Substantial period hse set in acre of gdn with far reaching views over Thames. Completely mod to highest standard. 5 beds, 3 baths, (on 2 ensuite) 3 receps. kit/brk rm. 2 sep wcs. dble gge. C/H. utility rm. BR 5 mins. 35 mins London. £375,000. Anytime inc even/wkends 0734 483546.

PALEY ST Nr Maidenhead. 5 mins J8/9 M4. Immac Grade II 400 year old cottage. 3 bedrms. bath, shower rm, 4 recep, handmade kitchen. ½ acre. Ideal for Equestrian pursuits. £235,000. Tel: 0628 74122 anytime.

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FOUR bedroomed detached. near Sherborne. ½ acre. woodland setting. c/h. double garage. £200,000. Tele: 096322-297.

HAMPSHIRE New Milton. close to New Forest and Bournemouth, 3 bedroom detached modern house and garage. large kitchen/diner. lounge. gas fired central heating. private garden. Offers. Tel:0738 33174

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RIVERSIDE Building Plots IOW. Fully serviced individual sites with direct access to the River Medina in magnificent exclusive tranquil setting. £ 8,000 - £85,000. Brochure: Medham sales office 0983 292375 7 days

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HEREFORD/Worcester border. 3 bed. detached. country cottage. mains gas, water, electric. 2 receptions, 1 bath, 2 wc. views to Malvern Hills + Teme Valley. parking, garage, ratch, partial double glazing. recently damp coursed. Dating to early 18th century. Freehold OIRO £125,000. Tel day 0886 33622 Eve 0886 32869

TELFORD. Unique Grade III 19th C 3 storey det 5 bed hse views of wooded valley. Lounge, din kit, 2 baths, hall. lge b/ment. pkg area. O.I.R.O. £185,000. Tel: 0952 433292.

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TUESDAY

Legal Appointments: Solicitors.
Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private and Public Practice with editorial.
Public Sector Appointments: with editorial.

WEDNESDAY

Creative & Media Appointments: Media and Marketing with editorial.
La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments.
Executive Creme for senior P.A. and secretarial position.
Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, Commercial Property with editorial.

THURSDAY

General Appointments: Accountancy & finance, Engineering, Management, etc. with editorial.
La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments.
Science and Technology: Technology with editorial.

FRIDAY

International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities
Motors: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial.
Business to Business: Business opportunities.

SATURDAY

Shoparound: shopping from the comfort of your own home,
Antiques and Collecting.
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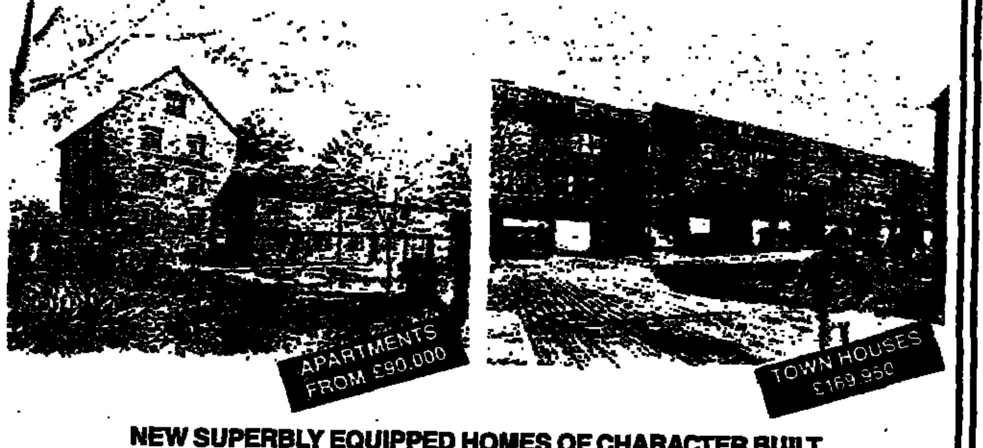

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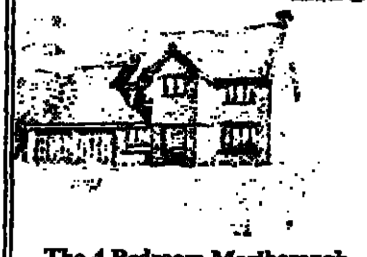

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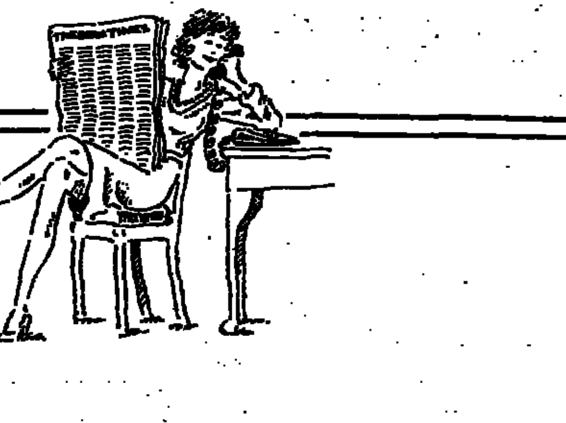

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THE TIMES

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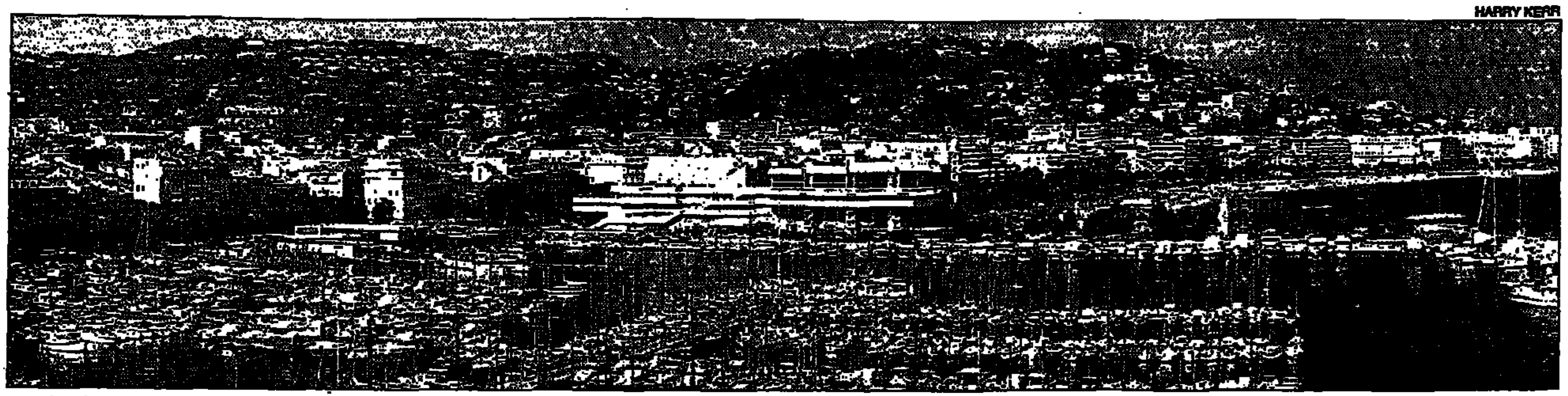

HARRY KERR

Casting off: the Palais des Festivals, Cannes. When the single European market has been established, formal barriers to the free flow of international investment should disappear

Plain sailing in Cannes

Property experts meeting on the French Riviera are pulling down international barriers and hoping for a big boost in business. Christopher Warman reports

The organisers of the second international commercial property festival of MIPIM (Marché International des Professionnels de l'Immobilier) in Cannes this weekend must be relieved that the Gulf war has ended in time to boost attendance and enable delegates to concentrate on international issues.

Last year's inaugural event attracted 2,625 delegates from 22 countries, 825 companies and 201 exhibitors. This year 4,000 delegates, 859 companies and 221 exhibitors are expected.

The reconstruction of eastern Europe will top the agenda again as events in Europe progress in the wake of German reunification. There are new opportunities for attracting investment and for making contacts with overseas companies keen to do business with British operations.

Writing about the festival, Philip Lewis and Bob Bowden, of the agent Conrad Ritblat, say last year's event showed that the real estate market in Europe, and to a certain extent throughout the world, now operates across national frontiers. "However, the idiosyncrasies of each country's lease structure, rent review and yield pattern will affect where the smart money will move during the 1990s," they say.

When the single European market has been established, formal barriers to the free flow of investment should disappear. Mr Lewis and Mr Bowden explain that, for example, the Bundesbank will not be able to veto the decision of a German insurance company wishing to invest in Britain or France, as is now the case. In principle, this should be good news for Britain, which has always suffered from the absence of a "level playing field", but in fact the playing field has recently looked fairly level. The influx of Japanese, Swedish and American money and latterly funds from France and Germany have far exceeded investment abroad by British groups.

Mr Lewis and Mr Bowden say the London office market, still for many the only sector worthy of consideration, has been badly hit by the economic decline. "However," Mr Lewis and Mr Bowden write, "the problem of oversupply is not so acutely felt by overseas players when they can still buy a prime City or West End site with a solid covenant for 25 years at an initial yield of 8.5 per cent, compared with 5 per cent in Paris."

For companies considering moving to Britain, they say London is likely to remain the world financial centre because of its expertise, whereas Frankfurt could become the European centre. The property surplus has resulted in static or falling rents, and good-quality space is available in prime locations at attractive lettings.

At this year's MIPIM event, in the Palais des Festivals from Saturday to Tuesday, topics will include regional and urban development, financing international real estate, the needs of American companies in Europe, Japanese investment strategy, and eastern Europe.

Since last year's festival, Chesterton, the property consultant, has announced a joint venture with Soprec, a leading French firm of property advisers. The new company will promote further strategic expansion in Europe.

Britain will have 44 exhibitors. Delegates include Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, Sir Idris Pearce, the president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Geoffrey Brown, the managing director of Speyhawk Development, and Roger Howson, of the Heron Corporation.

The John Lelliott construction group, already involved in projects in Czechoslovakia, France, Spain and Portugal, has recently decided to participate.

John Lelliott, the group chairman, says success in the present property climate will come to companies that operate in a niche market that invest in the marketing and development of new services at events of this kind. He says: "We will have a presence at MIPIM in order to represent international construction consultancy services, especially as we are active in mainland European markets, where a non-traditional type of contract is preferred."

IN THE MARKET

☐ Eurotunnel Developments has announced proposals for Market Plaza, a 326,000 sq ft covered shopping centre on the site of the cattle market in Ashford town centre in Kent. The company, the property investment and development subsidiary of Eurotunnel, which is attending the MIPIM market at Cannes, intends to start work late next year once the cattle market has been moved to its new site at Waterbrook, owned by Eurotunnel Developments. The new scheme, designed by architects Bernard Engle, will be integrated with the existing County Mall development, and will provide a focal point for the town centre. The plan contains 1,500 car parking spaces.

☐ Trafalgar House Brooklands has planning consent for another of its proposals for the 350-acre Brooklands site in Weybridge, Surrey. Elmbridge district council has given consent for three office buildings totalling 49,000 sq ft on the three-acre Paddock site, near the old control tower where the company's project management team is based. The buildings will provide 22,000 sq ft, 16,500 sq ft and 10,600 sq ft, and the two smaller buildings can be linked. The Paddock also has outline permission for warehouse use. The building would be suitable for a headquarters office and warehouse scheme. The joint agents are Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks and Robert Neil & Co.

☐ An innovation by Comic Relief this year is the design of a 6ft nose to "decorate" buildings. Only 1,000 are available, at £1,000 each plus VAT, and all the money goes to Comic Relief, which has raised more than £45 million in five years. The Sainsbury supermarket company has bought ten for its stores, and one adorns the Blackpool Tower and the Palace Theatre. A nose has now appeared in London Docklands, shining from the News International building.

☐ A landscaped square is a feature of MEPC's £11 million offices and shops plan at Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds. The development, topped out last week, is part of a scheme to regenerate a three-acre site near the financial and commercial centre. In the foreground of the model of the development (right) is Ambler House, providing 14,750 sq ft of offices behind Victorian façades. Across the square is the six-storey No 1 Trevelyan Square, which will have 57,000 sq ft of offices. The agents, Knight Frank & Rutley and Elliott Son & Boyton, are quoting rents of £20 a square foot for Trevelyan Square and £19 for Ambler House.

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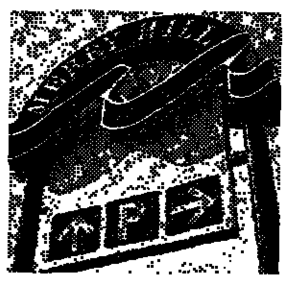

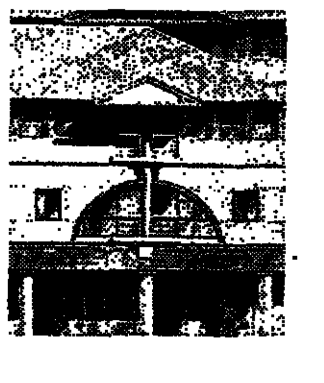

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Court of Appeal

Tenant can occupy land by its servants or agents

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Singh

Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment March 5]

A small open space improved and maintained by a local authority for local inhabitants' leisure use was "occupied for the purposes of a business carried on" by the local authority within the meaning of section 23 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

As tenant of the space the local authority had security of tenure of it under the provisions of Part II of the 1954 Act and was entitled to be granted a new tenancy of it.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the landlord, Dr Harbhajan Singh, from the judgment of Judge Sumner in Wandsworth County Court on July 10, 1990 in which he granted Wandsworth Borough Council's application for the grant of a new tenancy of land at St John's Hill, Battersea, London.

Section 23(1) of the 1954 Act provides: "... this part of this Act applies to any tenancy where the property comprised in the tenancy is or includes premises which are occupied by the tenant and are so occupied for the purposes of a business carried on by him or for those and other purposes."

Mr Edward Denehan for the landlord; Mr Alistair Craig for the council.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the case concerned a piece of open land used for at least 13 years by local inhabitants for leisure and recreation.

It occupied some 500 square metres. There were gates to it which were locked from time to time. The space was laid out with trees, benches and borders.

In 1983 the council had spent some £13,000 improving it. As tenant, the council subcontracted out the horticultural care of the area but visits were made to it by council employees on a regular basis.

The landlord's case, rejected by the judge, was that the council's tenancy of the premises involved such little activity and the degree of physical presence and control by the council was so small that in all the circumstances it was not sufficient to constitute "occupation" for the purposes of section 23(1): see *Trans-Britannia Properties Ltd v Darby Properties Ltd* ([1986] 1 EGLR 151). The council, it was submitted, did nothing more than passive management.

The issue was whether the council, on the evidence before the judge and which was not in dispute, had proved that it occupied at all times the premises for the purposes of its activity as a local authority.

Mr Denehan propounded the test that the court should apply was whether in all the circumstances there was a sufficient degree of presence and manifestation of control to constitute occupation by the tenant.

The issue of "sufficiency" of physical presence and control had not been considered by the courts in any case where the only occupation of the premises was that of the tenant by his servants or agents and without there being any subtenants or licensees.

If it was shown that the tenant, having possession of the premises and having given to no person the right to exclude him from any part of the premises, was by himself, his servants or agents physically present and was exercising control for the purpose of a business or activity carried on by him, then it would seem likely at least that an observer knowing the facts and applying the ordinary and popular meaning of the phrase "occupied for the purposes of a business" would hold that tenant to be the occupant.

It was accepted that a tenant who had a right to possession might choose not to go into actual occupation and that "occupation" in section 23 meant actual occupation in the popular sense of that word. But physical occupation did not have to be continuous provided that the right to occupy continued.

The case was a clear one. The council was physically present and exercised control of the premises by its servants or agents. An ordinary man, knowing the facts, if asked: "Who is in occupation of this open space?" would no doubt answer: "The council is."

Mr Denehan's submission that that approach was not open to the court following the *Trans-Britannia* case was rejected. There, Lord Justice Slade was dealing with subtenants let into occupation of garages. It was not a decision compelling the court to hold that the council was not in occupation of the open space.

Mr Justice Scott Baker agreed.

Solicitors: Conrathes, Wimbledon; Mrs S. G. Smith, Wandsworth.

Parental joint care and control order is most exceptional

In re J (a Minor)

Save in most exceptional cases it was not appropriate in matrimonial proceedings for an order to be made giving a father and mother joint care and control of their child. The vice of such an order would in the majority of cases be that the child might not know where he was really based.

The Court of Appeal (Mr Justice Scott Baker and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson) so stated on February 21 when allowing an appeal by a father from an interim order made by Judge Robert Brown in Preston County Court on February 5, 1991.

The court nevertheless approved terms agreed by the parties ordering, *inter alia*, that the parents have joint custody care and control of the child.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the child's mother and father had agreed terms for the court to consider. Those terms, that were intended to prevail for a significant time, left the child in no doubt where she was going to be. Moreover, there were advantages to the parents in reflecting the agreed equality in the terms of the order.

Although in general it was most inappropriate for such an order to be made, in the instant circumstances, it was in the child's best interests for the court to approve the agreed terms.

Law Report March 6 1991

Court of Appeal

Deathbed oral gift of house was valid

Sen v Headley

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment February 28]

The doctrine of *donatio mortis causa* (gift by reason of death) was anomalous but anomalies did not justify anomalous exceptions.

If due account was taken of the present state of the law with regard to mortgages and choses in action it was apparent that to make a distinction in the case of land would be to make just such an exception. Subject to the general requirements in all such cases, land was capable of passing by way of a *donatio mortis causa*.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Mrs Margaret Sen, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Mummery (*The Times* December 7, 1989; [1990] Ch 728) of her claim that she had been made a *donatio mortis causa* of a house in Ealing by constructive delivery of the title deeds.

Mr David Hodge for Mrs Sen; Mr Ian Leeming, QC and Mr Nigel Thomas for Mr Headley.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that *donationes mortis causa* might be said to have been anomalous in law, both for their immunity to the Statute of Frauds 1677 and the Wills Act 1837 and as exceptions to the rule that there was no equity to perfect an imperfect gift.

But both Lord Hardwicke and Lord Eldon, while making to regret the doctrine, established extensions of it beyond a simple gift of a chattel by its delivery: the former, in *Snellgrove v Bailey* ((1744) 3 Atk 213), to a gift of money secured by a bond, by delivery of the bond; the latter, in *Duffield v Elwes* ((1827) 1 Bli (NS) 497), to a gift of money secure by a mortgage of land, by delivery of the mortgage deed.

What had never been before been directly decided in England was whether the doctrine of *donatio mortis causa* applied to a gift of land by delivery of the title deeds. Lord Eldon thought that it did not, a view which had since generally been assumed to be correct.

The facts were that a Mr Vivian Hewitt, the owner of a substantial detached house in Gordon Road, Ealing, had enjoyed a close friendship with the plaintiff, Mrs Sen, for over 30 years. Some three days before his death on December 7, 1986, when he was very ill, Mrs Sen asked him what she should do about the house if anything happened to him.

He replied: "The house is yours Margaret. You have the keys. They are in your bag. The deeds are in the steel box."

Mr Hewitt died intestate and his next of kin were defendants to the action.

There were three general requirements for a valid *donatio mortis causa*.

First, the gift had to be made in contemplation, although not necessarily in expectation, of impending death.

Second, the gift had to be made upon the condition that it was to be absolute and perfected only on the donor's death, being revocable until that event and ineffective otherwise.

Third, there had to a delivery of the subject matter of the gift, or the essential *indicia* of title thereto, which amounted to a parting with dominion and not mere physical possession over the subject matter.

In *Duffield v Elwes* (at p538) Lord Eldon's emphasis of the distinction between the absolute estate of the mortgagor and the conditional estate of the mortgagee necessarily presupposed an opinion that the absolute estate could not have passed by delivery of the title deeds. That opinion was based on the provisions of the Statute of Frauds.

But those provisions apart it was not suggested that delivery of the title deeds would not have been a sufficient transfer of the underlying property, any the less than in the case of a bond or a mortgage.

It could not be doubted that title deeds were the essential *indicia* of title to unregistered land. Moreover, on the facts found by the judge, there had been a constructive delivery of the title deeds to the property equivalent to an actual handing of them by Mr Hewitt to Mrs Sen. It could not be suggested that Mr Hewitt did not part with dominion over the deeds.

The questions which remained to be answered were whether Mr Hewitt parted with dominion over the house and, if he did, whether land was capable of passing by way of a *donatio mortis causa*.

It appeared that the need for there to be a parting with dominion was first identified in cases where the subject matter of the gift was a locked box and its contents. In *Birch v Treasury Solicitor* ([1951] Ch 298) a similar need was recognised where the subject matter of the gift was a chose in action.

Without in any way questioning that need their Lordships thought it appropriate to observe that a parting with dominion over an intangible thing such as chose in action was necessarily different from a parting with dominion over a tangible thing such as a locked box and its contents. It was thought that in the former case a parting with dominion over the essential *indicia* of title would *ex hypothesi* usually be enough.

It was agreed that the doctrine was anomalous. Anomalies did not justify anomalous exceptions. If due account was taken of the present state of the law in regard to mortgages and choses in action, it was apparent that to make a distinction in the case of land would be to make just such an exception.

A *donatio mortis causa* of land was neither more nor less anomalous than any other. Every such gift was a circumvention of the Wills Act.

Why should the additional statutory formalities for the creation and transmission of interests in land be regarded as some greater obstacle? The only step which had to be taken was to extend the application of the implied or constructive trust arising on the donor's death from the conditional to the absolute estate.

Admittedly, that was a step which the House of Lords would not have taken in *Duffield v Elwes* and, if the point had been a subject of decision, their Lordships would have loyally followed it, but they could not decide a case in 1991 as the House of Lords would have decided it, but did not decide it, in 1827. They had to decide it according to the law today.

Accordingly, their Lordships held that land was capable of passing by way of a *donatio mortis causa* and that the three general requirements for such a gift had been satisfied. They therefore allowed Mrs Sen's appeal.

Solicitors: Stephen Fidler & Co; Edwin Coe.

Releasing funds from restraint order

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Norris

A restraint order was analogous to a *Mareva* injunction (asset-freezing order) and similar considerations applied on an application for the release of certain sums for specific purposes.

Where, therefore, the applicant had obtained leave to appeal against his conviction of offences under the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 and against a confiscation order made in consequence, the court would grant the release of a specified sum from funds held under a restraint order for the purpose of providing for his legal expenses in prosecuting the appeal.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Jusice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held on February 26, allowing an appeal by Alexander Richard Norris from Mr Justice Macpherson who had refused his application to vary a restraint order in order to release a specified sum for him to prosecute his appeal against his conviction.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that like a *Mareva injunction*, a restraint order could operate in two distinct stages: prior to judgment when funds were frozen against the possibility of a judgment, and post judgment, when they were frozen to enable execution to take place.

If leave to appeal against conviction was given, there was an obvious possibility that both the restraint order and the confiscation order would fall away if the appeal succeeded. Funds would therefore be released to prosecute the appeal.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Sunday trading restrictions are not disproportionate to socio-cultural aims of rules

Union Départementale des Syndicats CGT de l'Aisne v Sidef Conforama and Others
Case C-312/89

Criminal Proceedings v A. Marchandise and Others
Case C-332/89

Before O. Due, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Inglesias, M. Diez de Velasco, J. Joliet, F. Grévisse and M. Zuleeg

Advocate General W. van Gerven

(Opinion November 22, 1990)

[Judgment February 28]

The restrictive effects on trade which might stem from national rules governing the opening hours of retail premises, and which reflected certain political and economic choices, did not seem to be disproportionate to the aim pursued by those rules which was to ensure that working hours were so arranged as to accord with national or regional socio-cultural characteristics.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it for a preliminary ruling by the Tribunal de Grande Instance (Regional Court), Saint-Quentin, France and by the Cour d'Appell (Court of Appeal), Mons, Belgium.

Under the provisions of article L 221 of the *Code du Travail* (Labour Code) in France, the weekly rest period to be granted to employees, a minimum of 24 consecutive hours, had to be allowed on Sunday.

On the ground that the defendants were opening their shops on Sundays and employing their staff on those days, the applicant (Federation of CGT Trade Unions in the Department of Aisne) applied to the Tribunal de Grande Instance, Saint-Quentin, for an injunction to restrain the respondent companies from opening their shops on Sundays, subject to a fine for contravention. The President of that court referred to the European Court two questions on the interpretation of articles 30 and 36 of the EEC Treaty.

Under the combined provisions of articles 11 and 14(1) of the Belgian *Loi sur le Travail* (Labour Law) of March 16, 1971, it was prohibited to employ workers in retail shops on Sundays after 12 noon. Article 53 of the law provided that an employer in breach of the prohibition was punishable by imprisonment and a fine.

The defendants had been prosecuted for having employed, on several occasions between September 14, 1986 and December 14, 1986, nine workers on a Sunday after 12 noon in a retail shop, contrary to the law.

In June 1988 the Tribunal Correctionnel (Criminal Court), Charleroi, had found the accused guilty of the offences and fined them. On appeal the Fourth Chamber of the Cour D'Appel, Mons, sitting as a criminal court, referred to the European Court a question for preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice ruled as follows:

Although the Court had no jurisdiction, in preliminary reference proceedings, to rule on the compatibility of a national provision with the Treaty, it was nevertheless empowered to provide the national court with all the criteria for the interpretation of Community law which would enable the latter to assess that compatibility for the purpose of giving judgment in the case before it.

Article 30

The national courts sought in essence to establish whether provisions prohibiting the employment of workers on Sundays constituted a measure having equivalent effect to quantitative restrictions within the meaning of article 30.

National legislation which prohibited the employment of staff on Sundays was not designed to control trade. Nonetheless, it might entail restrictive effects on the free movement of goods.

Although it was improbable that the closure of certain types of shop on Sundays would cause consumers to refrain altogether from purchasing products which were available on weekdays, the fact remained that such a prohibition might have negative repercussions on the volume of sales and hence on the volume of imports.

Furthermore, legislation of that kind affected the sale of both domestic and imported products. In principle, the marketing of products imported from other member states was not therefore made more difficult than the marketing of domestic products.

In Case C-145/88 *Torfaen Borough Council v B & Q plc* (*The Times* November 24, 1989; [1989] ECR 3851) the Court had ruled, in relation to similar national legislation prohibiting the opening of retail shops on Sundays, that such a prohibition was not compatible with the principle of free movement of goods provided for in the Treaty unless any obstacle to Community trade thereby created did not exceed what was necessary in order to ensure the attainment of the objective in view and unless that objective was justified with regard to Community law.

That being so, it had first to be stated that legislation such as the legislation at issue pursued an aim which was justified with regard to Community law.

The Court had already held, in the *Torfaen* case, that national rules governing the opening hours of retail premises reflected certain political and economic choices in so far as their purpose was to ensure that working and non-working hours were so arranged as to accord with national or regional socio-cultural characteristics, and that, in the present state of Community law, was a matter for the member states.

It had further to be stated that the restrictive effects on trade which might stem from such rules did not seem disproportionate to the aim pursued.

Other Treaty provisions

The Cour d'Appel, Mons, further asked the Court to examine the national provisions in the light of articles 34, 59 to 66,and 3(f), 5 and 85 of the Treaty.

National legislation prohibiting the employment of workers on Sundays after 12 noon was not incompatible with article 34 of the Treaty, since it was not designed to control patterns of trade between member states and was applied in accordance with objective criteria to all traders in a given sector, without distinguishing between goods which the consumer had intended to use where they were bought and those which he wished to export.

The provisions on freedom to provide services within the Community could not apply to rules whose objective was worker protection and there was no evidence before the Court to support the conclusion that the legislation at issue sought to reinforce the effects of pre-existing agreements, decisions or concerted practices.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 The prohibition contained in article 30 of the Treaty, properly construed, did not apply to national legislation prohibiting the employment of staff on Sundays;

2 The prohibition contained in article 34 of the Treaty, properly construed, did not apply to such legislation;

3 Neither articles 59 to 66 nor the combined provisions of articles 3(f), 5 and 85 of the Treaty were applicable to such legislation.

Human Rights Law Report — Strasbourg

Conviction on unexamined statements is breach of rights

Delta v France
(Case No 26/1989/186/246)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. Cremona, Thor Vilhjalmsson, F. Golcuklu, L.-E. Pettiti, Sir Vincent Evans, R. Macdonald, C. Russo and J. de Meyer

Registrar M.-A. Eissen

[Judgment December 19]

In a unanimous judgment the European Court of Human Rights held that France had violated paragraph 3(d) taken together with paragraph 1 of article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Delta had not received a fair trial as his criminal conviction had been based to a decisive degree on statements by an alleged victim of a robbery and a friend, who had been interviewed by the police but had been not examined by the courts trying the facts.

Article 6 of the Convention provides: "1 In the determination of ... any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair ... hearing ... by [a] tribunal ...

"2 Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

"3 Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights: ... (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence ... (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him."

Mr Delta, a French citizen, was born in Guadeloupe in 1953. In May 1983 the Paris Criminal Court sentenced him to three years' imprisonment for robbery in the Paris Metro.

Its decision was based on the evidence given at the hearing by a police constable who had not witnessed the attack but who, in the company of the victim and a friend of hers, had arrested Mr Delta. The latter had not been formally confronted with the two girls aged 16, who did not attend the trial although they had been summoned by the prosecution.

In September 1983 the Paris Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by the applicant, who claimed that he had been wrongly identified as the person who had committed the offence. In doing so, it refused his application to have the victim, her friend and two defence witnesses called.

In October 1984 the Court of Cassation dismissed Mr Delta's appeal on points of law.

The application, made on August 4, 1984, was declared admissible by the European Commission of Human Rights on September 8, 1988. Having attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on October 12, 1989 in which it established the facts and expressed the unanimous opinion that there had been a violation of paragraph 1 of article 6 taken together with paragraph 3(d). It referred the case to the Court on December 14, 1989.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

As the guarantees in paragraph 3 of article 6 were specific aspects of the right to a fair trial set forth in paragraph 1, the Court considered the applicant's claim under paragraphs 3(d) and 1 taken together.

Although the victim of the offence and her friend did not testify in court in person, they were to be regarded for the purposes of article 6, paragraph 3(d) as witnesses, a term which was given an autonomous interpretation, since their statements, as reported orally by a police constable at the criminal court hearing and as recorded in writing by a police inspector, were in fact before the court, which took them into account.

The admissibility of evidence was primarily a matter for regulation by national law, and, as a general rule, it was for the national courts to assess the evidence before them.

Accordingly, the Court's task under the Convention was to ascertain whether the proceedings considered as a whole, including the way in which evidence was taken, were fair.

In principle, the evidence had to be produced in the presence of the accused at a public hearing with a view to adversarial argument.

That did not mean, however, that in order to be used as evidence, statements of witnesses had always to be made at a public hearing in court. To use as evidence such statements obtained at the pre-trial stage was not in itself inconsistent with paragraphs 3(d) and 1 of article 6, provided the rights of the defence have been respected.

As a rule, those rights required that an accused should be given an adequate and proper opportunity to challenge and question a witness against him, either at the time the witness made his statement or at some later stage of the proceedings (see *Kostovski* (*The Times* November 22, 1989; Series A No 166, p20, paragraph 41)).

In the instant case the two girls had been interviewed, at the police-investigation stage, only by a police constable and the inspector who drew up the record of their statements.

They were questioned neither by an investigating judge, because of recourse of the direct committal procedure, nor by the court.

Before the criminal court the defence did not ask in their written submissions for any witnesses to be called.

Nevertheless, the prosecution had duly summoned the two girls and, since they did not appear and gave no reasons for their failure to do so, the court could have made use of articles 438 and 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to compel them to attend.

In the Court of Appeal, on the other hand, the defendant, relying, *inter alia*, on article 6, paragraph 3(d) of the Convention, expressly asked for the complainant and her friend and two defence witnesses to be summoned. That application was, however, refused.

Accordingly, neither the applicant nor his counsel ever had an adequate opportunity to examine witnesses whose evidence, which had been taken in their absence and later reported by a policeman who had not witnessed the attack in the Metro, was taken into account by the courts responsible for trying the facts, decisively at first instance and on appeal, as the file contained no other evidence. They were therefore unable to test the witnesses' reliability or cast doubt on their credibility.

In sum, the rights of the defence were subject to such restrictions that Mr Delta did not receive a fair trial. There had accordingly been a breach of paragraph 3(d) of article 6 taken together with paragraph 1.

II Article 6, paragraphs 2 and 3(b) and articles 17 and 18

as the alleged violation of article 6, paragraph 2 concerned the same facts and consequences that the court had held to be contrary to paragraphs 3(d) and 1, the Court considered that no separate examination of it was necessary.

The complaints relating to paragraph 3(b) of article 6 and to articles 17 and 18 fell outside the limits resulting from the Commission's decision on admissibility. The Court accordingly held that it had no jurisdiction to entertain them.

III Application of article 50

A Damage

The Court could not speculate as to the outcome of the trial if Mr Delta had had the benefit of all the guarantees of article 6, but it did not find it unreasonable to regard him as having suffered a loss of real opportunities.

On an equitable basis it awarded him compensation in the amount of FFr100,000 in respect of the whole of the damage suffered.

B Costs and expenses

Mr Delta had forgone legal aid for the proceedings in the Paris Court of Appeal and in the Court of Cassation but had been legally aided in the proceedings before the Convention institutions.

His counsel nonetheless claimed compensation for the loss of earnings he had sustained by defending him. The Court pointed out that an applicant's lawyer could not claim just satisfaction on his own account and dismissed the claim.

The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants' examination results

Ab Aziz Bin Ismail: Abbott M I: Abdool Gaffoor Ahmad: Abdul Jabbar s/o Abdollah: Acton A S: Agbai M O M K: Ahern D G: Ahmed Rostom Al-Taidaan: Ahmed A: Aitchison B: Al-Zakwany A S: Alexander S J: Alia Abdullahi: Aliza Bt Ashari: Allen I: Allison T H: Allison-Beer D K: Amamoo J G: Ang Chay Huang: Ang Kian Hing: Ang Pek Doe: Antoniou M K: Araniyasundaran S: Arif Hussain: Arifin Bin Kodiran: Aristodemou S A: Arnold R S E: Ashby A C: Atkins S M: Attard R: Au Ka Ki: Au Yong W K: Azhar Bin Mohamad.

Baboolal R: Bagdai R J: Baker I: Balicki B V: Ball G S: Barlow H A: Barnard W P H: Barnett A S: Barnett P: Barody Z D A: Baynes P T: Beckett M J: Beekhuizen P M: Beh Siok Yeang: Beirne B: Bellas R M: Beng Hwee Tan: Bennett M B: Bennett P A: Bennett P M: Bersted R L: Bergin P B C: Bilton P M: Blackham A G: Blackwell P V: Blagden C J: Blain J C: Bligh S J: Blonsky G S: Blyth I A: Boatman I A P: Boden K M: Boh Booh Chiang, Boothe C A V: Botfield C R: Bovey R L: Bowley S: Bowman S K: Boyce N P: Boyce R R: Boyd N: Brading M F: Bradley P R: Bray M A: Brenda Hon Siew Ling: Briggs J C: Brockman P J: Brown A A: Brown A K: Brown D A: Brown H S: Brown K M: Brown M K: Brown S A: Browne J H: Buckleton A M: Buckley A P: Buckley M W: Buckley S M: Buonpane G: Burch V J: Burke P E: Burrows A S: Byrne A J: Byrne G P.

Campbell S P: Carey D P: Carim A S A C: Carney S D: Cassidy V M M: Catherall T P: Ch'ng Hing Han: Chadwick M P: Chadwick P M: Chafly K: Chak Chi Ming: Chakera H A: Chakrapani S R: Chan Chai Yim A: Chan Chi Man: Chan Chi Ming: Chan Chi Yuen: Chan Cho Wing, Chan Choi Yee: Chan Choung Yau: Chan Chun Chuen: Chan Chun Keung: Chan Chun Kit: Chan Kam Yiu: Chan Kwan [illegible]

Cheang Chuen Hon: Chee Sze Wan S: Chen Hei J: Chen Siew Meoy: Cheng Chun Sing: Cheng Hong Cheung: Cheng Kai Tai A: Cheng Kam Por: Cheng Kong Keung: Cheng Man For: Cheng Wai Hung: Cheng Ying: Cheong Kin Fong: Cheuk Shun Wah: Cheung Chi Chung: Cheung Fung Yee K: Cheung King Tung K: Cheung Kit Lam: Cheung Kwok Cheung: Cheung Man Yi: Cheung Sau Shing: Cheung Sau Yin S: Cheung Siu Hong: Cheung So Han: Cheung Som S: Cheung Yiu Kwong H: Cheung Yuk Chun: Chew Beng Hui: Chew Ngot Min: Chew Sun Teong: Chewe C: Chia Hui Koon: Childs T P: Chin Chin Huat: Chin Lee Lee: Chin Yoon Mei: Chin M P R: Chiu Lai Chun R: Chiu Shuk Ching E: Chiu Wai Kwong J: Chiu Wai Yin: Chiu Yu Fung J: Chhundra C G J: Choi Ho Chung C: Choi Po Yee A: Chong Hon Lung: Chong Jin Tan A: Choong Lye Sim: Chou Yat Tung: Chow Che Leung: Chow Chi Keung: Chow Eng Po: Chow Ming Yiu: Chow Siu Fan: Chow Voon Liung B: Choy Kai Sing: Choy Lai Fung: Choy Siu Yee: Choy Wing Hung: Christie D H: Christodoulides A: Chrysanthou A: Chu Zee Lung L: Chua See Hoon: Chua Mui Nah: Chua Siang Woon: Chua Sock Hwee: Chui Man Yee W: Chui Wing Kit: Chung Chau Yu C: Chung Chi Keung: Chung Ching Sham: Chung Hil Lan E: Chung King Fung T: Chung Wai Shun W: Chung Wing Cheong: Clark R J: Cleaver K A: Clements J A: Clerides S P: Clinton L N J: Coda G: Codling M J: Coe J C: Coghlan A M: Coles D J: Colley P S: Conners A: Connolly W P: Cook J: Cook J M: Cooper S A: Copeman A M: Corker S R: Cousens A J: Cowley J P: Cranleigh Swaah P: Crawford A S W: Critchley J R: Critten I C J: Crobber P: Crosbie R B: Curtis S M: D'Cruz A S.

Davenport P: Davies J E: Davies S E: Davison J A: De Silva S D: De St Romaine C: Dedman S J: Desai T: Devonport I J: Diakopoulou K: Dial K: Dias V M: Diffey C M: Dilcock M R: [illegible]

GOLF

St Andrews gets early return of the Open

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo will have the chance to win the Open Championship again at the home of golf before his fortieth birthday. The Royal and Ancient yesterday announced that the 124th Open, in 1995, would be played from July 20 to 23 on the Old Course at St Andrews, where Faldo, aged 33, won last July with an 18-under-par total.

The return to St Andrews is earlier than anticipated, although not surprising. The Royal and Ancient had considered reintroducing Carnoustie, where an Open was last held in 1975, to the rota. Graeme Simmers, chairman of the championship committee, said: "We had intended going back, but Trusthouse Forte has decided against building a new hotel there, and we cannot now consider returning to Carnoustie. It would cost nearly £1 million once more to set up the infrastructure required for an Open.

"There is no set rota, but St Andrews is a popular place from the players' point of view. There is a school of thought that we should play the championship at St Andrews every year, but that is obviously not possible."

Faldo will defend his title at Royal Birkdale this July, and he is likely to do so against a strong field. "We did have our doubts while the Gulf situation prevailed on how many Americans might come over," Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said. "We held back entry forms because of the uncertainty, but I suspect we will soon hear from most. I also think Jack Nicklaus might still play, and I will be speaking with him in America later this month."

The Royal and Ancient also reported that the Open Championship would appear to have dodged the recession. David Hill, the championship secretary, said: "Some sporting events seem to be suffering, but the stands in the exhibition tents are sold out, and the hospitality units would not have appeared to have suffered.

"The Open now costs approximately £3.5 million to stage. The situation did look dodgy in December, and we had to consider the possibility of an operating loss. We made a surplus at St Andrews last year, although we always accept that Royal Birkdale is a break-even venue." The Royal and Ancient estimates that there will be 170,000 spectators, compared with the record of 209,000 that attended St Andrews.

The success at St Andrews has led to the Royal and Ancient putting more than £2 million back into golf in 1991, with £1,025,000 in grants for either education, training, or research, and interest-free loans of over £1 million for the creation of new golf facilities. By the end of this year, the total of loans outstanding will be £2.5 million, and from 1986 to 1991 grants worth more than £4.5 million will have been made.

Madness that makes horse-sense

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Saddling up for the last time: Hyett rides high on mixed emotions in the tack room

SIMON BARNES celebrates the Madness of National Hunt racing. In the first of a three-part series on the Cheltenham Festival next week, he meets a journeyman jockey with more falls than winners

On the rare occasions that the English and the Irish share a passion, the results are always extraordinary. Two such passions leap to the mind, literature and horses, and they have produced the maddest books and the maddest of all sports. National Hunt racing pushes sanity to the limits and beyond. It is the *Finnegans Wake* of horsiness.

Ron Hyett has been part of the Madness since 1968. He is a National Hunt jockey and next week he races in his last Cheltenham Festival: one horse, Tasman Oak. He has had far more falls than he can remember: far fewer winners than he'd like to remember. "I've been very run-of-the-mill for a long time. I've never hit the highlights. But that doesn't make any difference to me. I've enjoyed it."

Now he is giving it up, with great relief, with great regret. "Nothing prompted it. I just didn't want to ride at 40." That birthday is perilously close. You tend to stop bouncing after 30, and, for any jump jockey, falling is a way of life. Madness.

"I've been picking my rides for the last few years — not that it makes any difference, because if you are going to get a bad fall, you can get it on a good horse as easily as a bad one. But it cuts down the worrying. You take a spare ride in a novice chase like I used to, and you think, oh crikey, what am I doing sat up here? Any horse can make mistakes, you still get your share of falls, but you're not thinking about them. It's the thought more than the actual fall . . . and once you start to think about falls, it's time to pack up."

Hyett is relieved to be stopping, wishes he could start again, feels he has had the best of the game, thinks the game is just starting to take off, knows he is going to miss horses dreadfully, longs to work in an easier area of life. He is trying to resolve a mass of contradictions.

"I've got regrets. You think of horses you have ridden, and you think, I'd like to ride that next year. But . . . well, there's always going to be nice horses."

Hyett had his share of nice horses, was always there or thereabouts, never anywhere near the top. He had around 300 rides a year at his best and conjured 30-odd wins from them; very solid, that. He rode a double at the Festival as a lad and was once third in the Grand National, on a beast called The Pilgarlic.

What a horse! Year after year, he always got round, was always in the first half-dozen, never once got close to winning. "He never looked like making a mistake, never gained a length, never lost one. He didn't do anything fantastic, just did everything perfect." Hyett is the human equivalent of The Pilgarlic: a classic National Hunt good egg.

Hyett says it is the people he will miss most. "Jump people are marvellous," he said. "But it's getting a bit more serious now." There was a gaiety about National Hunt that many old hands at the game are mourning. There was a conspiracy of irresponsibility between jockeys, owners and trainers. They looked at the Flat racers as a po-faced bunch, forever cut off from the real joys of the Real Game.

"It's quietened down a lot," Hyett said. "Jockeys aren't wild any more. It's a very serious game now. It gets more like the Flat every day. I don't think it's a good thing and I think that's to do with the money involved. The top jockeys are in the superstar league these days. Before, if they got out of the game with their house paid for, they'd done well."

Hyett would love to be starting again, because today 300 rides a year represent "a blimmin' good living". At the same time, he regrets the passing of the jump racing he used to know, the "dying breed" of owners and trainers deeply versed in horse-lore and infected with the risk-all jolliness of National Hunt.

Now, as he prepares for his last bow at Cheltenham, he is acutely aware of the difficulties of starting grown-up life at 40. He stands at a crossroads. "I don't know if I want to stay in horses. I was always going to. If you'd asked me at Christmas, I'd have said, yes, of course. But I've got a couple of opportunities I'm thinking of now."

He would miss, he says, sitting on horses. "I love schooling young horses. I love breaking them and schooling them. If you can be involved with a horse from when he's a baby to when he's winning races — well, it's really marvellous.

"But I know people who do that sort of work all the time, and do it for no money, not earning a living, just for the pleasure of horses. That's what I've got to get away from. I must do things in a sensible, businesslike way. One of these opportunities would give me the chance to do horses in the morning and work afternoons and nights . . ."

Hyett has been one of the spear-carriers of National Hunt racing. "Once over the last, I'd hold my own with most." He has been part of the Madness, part of the conspiracy of gaiety. Now, with profoundly mixed feelings, he turns his gaze towards the depressing, humdrum insanity of real life.

BRIDGE

Britons below average

By ALBERT DORMER

THE Hoechst tournament in the Hague, one of Europe's most competitive events, brought little joy to the selection committee that recently named Britain's European championship squad. Four of the six members, Graham Kirby, John Armstrong, Tony Sowter and Roman Smolski, finished below average in their qualifying group and failed to make the final.

Britain's best performance behind the winning Danish, Swedish and Dutch formations was by four unsuccessful trialists, Brian Callaghan, Rob Cliffe, David Burn and David Price, who came a creditable seventh in the 56-team field.

In Birmingham, the English Bridge Union (EBU) held its annual pairs championships in four separate categories. The winning grand masters were Mark Houghton, of Notts, and Richard Winter, of Yorkshire, perhaps with a touch of *schadenfreude* as their regular team mates in the English trials finished bottom. Second were the Midlands pair, Gary Watson and David Jones, and third, J Dhondy and J Cope, of London.

The splitting of EBU Masters into different levels of ability depends simply on the player's career-total of master points won in EBU events. Unlike chess, bridge looks only at cumulative achievement.

With computer scoring, it is possible for poor performance as well as good to be registered, and the quality of the field, too. But bridge leagues, conscious of income from competitors who can gain high ranking just by acquiring master points, may cling to the present scheme.

OTHER BIRMINGHAM RESULTS (all GB): **Lifemasters:** 1, D Harris and J Williams, 2, G Stanford and J Gobert, 3, J Gair and M Lee. **National Masters:** 1, J A Smith and N Crawford, 2, P M de Leeuw and B Marlow; 3, Mr and Mrs G McConkey. **Regional Masters:** 1, K Goode and A Gipson; 2, B Crutwell and S Foela; 3, A Lyall and R Brook. **Star Masters:** 1, G Osbourne and P Wood, 2, M Maston and P Tempest; 3, D Brown and E Gee.

HOCKEY

Bristol look on Blan to hold midfield

STUART Blan, who plays for Teddington in the first division of the National League, has a key midfield role for Bristol in the men's final of the Commercial Union Universities Athletic Union championship against Exeter at Reading today (Sydney Friskin writes).

Other first division league players in the Bristol side are Rea, the Isca goalkeeper, Waldock (Firebrands) and Harradine (Stourport). Exeter include two Isca first XI players, Cross and Boyce.

Both sides are previous winners, Exeter in 1987 and Bristol in 1963.

BRISTOL: T Rea; A Waldock, P Alexander, A Adgerabo, A Wheeler (captain), R Hern, S Blan, H Machin, J Hale, A Richards, P Harradine. Subs: W Scarlet, J Davenport, J Hewer, D Bain.

EXETER: S Parris; D Bootle, R Houghton, M Wight (captain), P Matton, W Johnston, D Cross, J Boyce, C Mlodie, D Alford, N Coleman. Subs: P Arnold, D Chadwick, G Harris.

Balance sheet for cricket tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan is stronger on debit than credit

England feel the heat in more ways than one

From RICHARD STREETON
IN COLOMBO

ON THE basis that an integral part of a tour is to provide overseas experience for potential Test players, the England A touring party returns home on Sunday with its horizons considerably widened.

However, in terms of match results and individual success, the nine-week visit to Pakistan and Sri Lanka was less satisfactory. All 17 players, it is to be hoped, have learned the harsh lessons taught by playing abroad in excessive heat and humidity, to say nothing of the tension which can be generated by unaccustomed conditions.

Most of the matches were played on slow, turning pitches, with spin bowling forming their opponents' main armoury. The most meaningful cricket, originally, was expected to take place in Pakistan and there was every sign during the short time the team spent there that this would have been the case.

When the Gulf war brought a hurried evacuation to Sri Lanka, it was justifiable to wonder whether the hosts would be able to sustain a proper opposition, not least as their Test side was in New Zealand. England had a rude awakening as Sri Lanka won four one-day internationals and more than held their own in two unofficial Tests.

England came closer to victory than Sri Lanka in these two games, but in the first their batsmen were unable to complete the job and in the second it was the bowlers who failed to do so. By the time the third and final Test match began last Friday, there were tell-tale signs that the England players were becoming frustrated.

There is a narrow border among English professionals between justifiable confidence and a feeling of inbred superiority. As always, it manifested itself with a complaint about the local umpiring. The situation was not helped by less fraternization between the sides than normal.

As has always been the case, a fair amount of sledging went on in this series. At a time when the International Cricket Council is tackling this problem, it was unexpected that the Sri Lankan manager admitted in an interview that he had positively encouraged his players to give as good as they were given.

Once the game started, the England batsmen were again unable to dominate the Sri Lankan bowling. In the end, Colombo's March thunderstorms ruined the match.

When the England party was originally chosen, there seemed every likelihood that the batting would be marked by far more adventurous stroke-play than their predecessors had managed last winter in Zimbabwe. Sadly, this anticpated new approach never came about. A miserly average of around two runs an over again became the norm just as it had been a year ago in Harare and Bulawayo. Whether through a misinterpretation of advice, or by inclination, England never attempted to take charge against the Sri Lankan spinners.

Attrition and mere occupation of the crease, though, have never been the way that the best batsmen have played Test matches. To be fair, the Sri Lankans were similarly unambitious. Their sights were always set on avoiding defeat.

Keith Fletcher, the England team manager, never wavered from his belief that it would be fatal for anyone to combat the ball turning away from them by moving forward. Whether England might have done better to try must remain speculation. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this technical matter, Morris, the England captain, should be absolved from responsibility.

Fletcher, admittedly one of the shrewdest brains in the English game, was always very much in charge. Morris emerged as an orthodox tactician, but he did a fine job in the other areas that fall to the lot of a touring captain.

In some ways, Morris was in an invidious position compared with Mark Nicholas, the captain in Zimbabwe. Morris was on trial both as a batsman and as a leader. When Nicholas, a proven success as a captain and ambassador on this sort of tour, was ruled out by the after-effects of malaria, it might have been better to select an alternative "old head" as captain, such as Parker (Sussex) or Neale (Worcestershire).

As a batsman, Morris had an uneven tour. He was not always fortunate in the manner of his dismissals. He was, though, more reluctant than most to be tied down. His aggressive hundred in the third one-day international showed what might have been achieved on other occasions if a more positive approach had been attempted. Ramprakash and Hussain knocked the hardest on the selectors' door as full Test candidates, which was predictable before the tour started.

Both eventually came to terms with the spinners, and their respective centuries in the first and second Tests bore the hallmarks of maturity and technical excellence. They were also the team's outstanding fieldsmen, Ramprakash away from the wicket and Hussain in the close-catching positions. Thorpe, whom the Sri Lakans believed dealt better with the turning ball than anyone else, and Bicknell learned to accumulate runs even when not completely at ease.

Blakey, too, made useful scores, but all three shared a penchant for getting out when they were well set. Fairbrother invariably looked uncomfortable against the spinners. Pick made the most progress among the bowlers, Newport could always be relied upon for a steady spell, and Illingworth's left-arm slow bowling was invaluable for its steadiness.

Salisbury did all that could be reasonably expected of him and Illott, the other raw recruit, looked a fine prospect when he joined late as Watkin's replacement. Everyone will wish Medlycott well in the remedial work on his loss of form.

FINAL SERIES AVERAGES

Sri Lanka A batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
D Wickremasinghe	3	5	2	211	105*	70.33	1	1	1
D S B P Kuruppu	3	4	0	245	168	61.25	1	—	2
M S Attapattu	2	2	0	70	67	35.00	—	1	—
C D C Edirimanne	2	2	1	30	28	30.00	—	—	—
F S Ahangama	3	4	3	21	10*	21.00	—	—	—
S D Anurasiri	2	2	0	41	41	20.50	—	—	1
B R Jurangpathy	3	4	0	71	41	17.75	—	—	2
H Premasiri	2	4	0	70	56	17.50	—	1	—
A Wickremasinghe	2	4	0	55	51	13.75	—	1	8/1
R S Kalpage	2	2	0	7	7	3.50	—	—	1

PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: B E A Rajadurai 19, 1; S H U Karnain 9, 0; T Wijesinghe 4 (1ct), N Fernando 30* (1ct); V Deshapriya did not bat (1ct); A De Silva 28, 31; P Wickremasinghe 36, 23; P Wijetunga 0, 17*; D Butaniadame 1, 28 (1ct).

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i	10m
S D Anurasiri	102.5	39	163	12	13.58	6-63	2	1
F S Ahangama	93.5	31	231	13	17.76	5-81	2	—
R S Kalpage	90	31	130	2	65.00	1-45	—	—
C D C Edirimanne	61.5	15	150	2	75.00	2-66	—	—
B R Jurangpathy	100	36	201	2	100.50	1-63	—	—

ALSO BOWLED: V Deshapriya 16-5-22-1; P Wijetunga 32-6-82-2; M S Attapattu 5-4-3-0; D Butaniadame 10-4-14-0; S H U Karnain 9-3-26-0; B E A Rajadurai 24-8-41-0; P Wickremasinghe 14-2-62-0.

England A batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
N Hussain	3	4	0	239	161	59.75	1	1	7
G P Thorpe	3	4	0	188	88	47.00	—	3	4
M R Ramprakash	3	4	0	171	158	42.75	1	—	—
N H Fairbrother	2	3	0	92	71	30.66	—	1	1
D J Bicknell	3	4	0	114	40	28.50	—	—	2
P J Newport	3	4	1	76	35	25.33	—	—	2
S J Rhodes	2	3	0	69	57	23.00	—	1	11
R A Pick	3	2	1	18	18*	18.00	—	—	1
M C Ilott	2	2	1	16	12	16.00	—	—	—
R K Illingworth	2	3	1	18	17	9.00	—	—	—
H Morris	3	4	0	27	15	6.75	—	—	1

PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: R J Blakey 30; W K Hegg 24; I D K Salisbury 1 (1ct); T A Munton 0*.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i	10m
M C Ilott	64	19	142	6	23.66	4-42	—	—
R A Pick	93.5	19	273	11	24.81	4-61	—	—
R K Illingworth	81.2	37	129	5	25.80	3-78	—	—
P J Newport	99	29	240	7	34.28	4-39	—	—
M R Ramprakash	35	11	73	2	36.50	1-10	—	—

ALSO BOWLED: T A Munton 42-13-77-4; I D K Salisbury 75-27-154-3; G P Thorpe 13-5-29-0.

● *Compiled by Richard Lockwood* *Source: TCCB/Bull*

Fletcher says teach-ins would eradicate faults

From RICHARD STREETON

A RECOMMENDATION that English cricket should arrange for the leading 50 to 60 players to attend winter teach-ins, perhaps at Lilleshall to sort out technical problems, will be made by Keith Fletcher, the England A team manager, in his tour report. Fletcher disclosed his plan at a press conference after further overnight thunderstorms washed out the last day's play in the third, unoffical Test match here.

Fletcher said the leading players belonged to England as much as their counties and they should be brought together on several occasions, perhaps for a week at a time, during the winter months.

"Even the established men have always still got a lot to learn," Fletcher said. "I know that Micky Stewart, the England manager, is also thinking along these lines." Get the right coaches and get everyone talking and analysing problems and technique, was Fletcher's theme. "I know that the time the A team spent at Lilleshall before this tour proved absolutely invaluable for everybody."

Bob Bennett, the tour manager, who is chairman of Lancashire, backed Fletcher's scheme. Counties appreciated that an important part of their revenue came from Test cricket and he felt sure counties would support such a venture.

Fletcher, whose work with Essex and on two A tours has shown his flair for helping players to develop, was asked if he would like to succeed Stewart in the senior job. "You must remember that Micky still has two years of his contract to go, I think. If it arose in the future I would have to consider it. I would have to do a lot of thinking about it before I decided."

Fletcher reiterated the plea he has constantly made in recent weeks for pitches in England that would help to develop spin bowlers. "At the moment they only come on to give the seamers a rest and sometimes a country does not play a spinner at all."

Once again the ground was a wet, muddied morass when the players arrived for the final day's play yesterday. It was especially galling for England that this final Test should have been wrecked by the weather, as for the first time on the tour, the pitch had hinted that it had the pace to assist the England seamers. Consequently all three games in the series were drawn. The tour ends on Friday.

SCORES: England A 306 (N Hussain 77, G P Thorpe 68; S Ahangama 5 for 81); Sri Lanka A 48 for one.

Sri Lanka display lack of ambition in draw

AUCKLAND (Reuter) — Sri Lanka allowed New Zealand to play out a tame draw in the third and final Test match yesterday. The three-match series also ended in a draw, with the small crowd slow-handclapping the players and chanting: "Boring, boring."

Sri Lanka appeared to have a great chance to win their first Test and series away from home, with New Zealand starting at 18 without loss in pursuit of a victory target of 383. However, even after removing both openers early in the day, they seemed uninterested in forcing the win as Arjuna Ranatunga, their captain, set defensive fields with seldom more than two players close to the bat.

The New Zealanders finished at 261 for five, with Jones, on 73, once again the mainstay of the home side's batting. New Zealand remain unbeaten in home Test series since the 1978-79 season.

Ranatunga defended his negative tactics. "We gave the option to New Zealand to see if they were keen to win and we were waiting for them to make a mistake," he said.

Any thoughts New Zealand had of chasing victory diminished early when the reliable Wright was caught by Tillekeratne, the wicketkeeper, off Ramanayake for 20.

In a spell of three for 22 before and after lunch, Labrooy gave Sri Lanka every chance of victory. He induced a confident Franklin to give Tillekeratne another catch when he had reached 31. Labrooy then bowled Greatbatch for seven, and when he trapped Rutherford for six, New Zealand were reeling at 117 for four. But inexplicably Ranatunga failed to attack.

Thomson and Jones comfortably added 100 in 109 minutes until the second new ball was taken, when Labrooy immediately had Jones lbw for 73. Jones took his tally in the series to 513, scored at an average of 102.6.

SRI LANKA: First innings 380 (P A de Silva 96, G F Labrooy 70 not out, A P Gurusinha 50; C L Cairns 4 for 136).

Second innings 319 (P A de Silva 123, C Hathurusinghe 74; C L Cairns 5 for 75).

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 317 (J G Wright 84, M J Greatbatch 65).

Second innings

T J Franklin c Tillekeratne b Labrooy	31
J G Wright c Tillekeratne b Ramanayake	20
A H Jones lbw b Labrooy	73
M J Greatbatch b Labrooy	7
K R Rutherford lbw b Labrooy	6
S A Thomson not out	80
D N Patel not out	16
Extras (b 1, lb 9, nb 18)	28
Total (5 wkts)	261

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-60, 3-95, 4-117, 5-217.

BOWLING: Ratnayake 21-3-44-0 (nb3); Ramanayake 19-4-62-1 (nb5); E A R de Silva 25-4-61-0 (nb6); Labrooy 19-5-42-4 (nb3); Ranatunga 7-1-23-0; Jayasuriya 6-1-18-0; Gurusinha 2-1-1-1.

Man of the match: P A de Silva.

Punjab drags umpire dispute before judge

OVERSEAS CRICKET by SIMON WILDE

AS THOUGH players assaulting each other with stumps was not enough, India's season has been thrown into further turmoil by a court ruling preventing a Ranji Trophy match between Delhi and Punjab starting today.

The match is a replay ordered by the Indian board after Delhi had used an ineligible umpire in the original fixture in January. The board had deducted points from Delhi but, on an appeal by Delhi last week, a replay was ordered. Punjab responded yesterday by applying to a Patiala district court and the judge has called for representatives of the board and the Delhi and Punjab associations to appear before him on March 20.

Hyderabad and Bengal, the holders, have already reached the semi-finals. Bengal, who scored 652 for nine after conceding 791 for six declared, won their quarter-final against Karnataka on run-rate.

The South African authorities are expected to decide next month that Currie Cup matches will be played over four days from next season, leaving only England and New Zealand among Test-playing countries whose national championships still include three-day games.

Ali Bacher, the South African Cricket Union's managing director, who is to advocate the addition of a fourth day, said: "I believe it is vital to simulate Test match conditions whenever possible and that will be the motive behind these proposals. I don't know quite when we will be back in Test cricket, but we now have to prepare our players for that day."

Bacher is also to call for the number of Currie Cup teams to be increased to seven, with the promotion of Border, and for an overall improvement in the standard of pitches. Bacher will have the backing of several provincial captains who have overseen numerous stultifying draws in the competition this season.

However, with the Currie Cup entering its final phase, result pitches have become the order of the day. The results in the last two matches at Johannesburg though, have not been to the liking of the home team, Transvaal, whose highest total in losing to Western Province and Eastern Province was only 179. John Maguire, who will play for Leicestershire this summer, took eight wickets for Eastern Province, who last won in Johannesburg 15 years ago.

Robin Jackman is to leave Western Province at the end of the season after six years as manager.

NETBALL

Surrey clinch league

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SURREY were confirmed as the new English Counties League champions on Saturday by virtue of a narrow 45-43 victory at **Essex Metropolitan**, where they had trailed by nine goals.

Without Sandra Fairweather, their England centre, Surrey lacked the sureness which has left them with maximum points in the league this season. The introduction of Barbara Taylor — 40 years old and 6ft tall — as their substitute goalshooter, turned the tide, however.

Surrey can now regard their final fixture of the season against Birmingham as an exercise in maintaining their unblemished record, rather than a tense fight for the title. **Middlesex**'s win last Wednesday over **Bedfordshire** leaves them second.

South Yorkshire and **Kent**, promoted only last season, were returned to the second division. Kent, who drew 50-50 at **Birmingham**, hoped that South Yorkshire would defeat Cheshire and condemn the two northern teams to relegation. But Cheshire won 59-40.

Mary Beardwood, the Middlesex coach, was unable to supervise their win over Bedfordshire as she was in Sheffield. Also coach to **England Under-16**, Beardwood was in charge as the teenagers retained the Marion Wall trophy in the Federation of European Netball Associations tournament. **Wales**, coached for the first time by Angharad Dafydd, established a seven-goal lead before England won 30-28.

The Welsh Netball Association is advertising for a new technical director to replace Eirlys Jones, who resigned from the post of administrative director last year.

Many of the youngsters at Sheffield will be reunited in Sunderland this Saturday, where the national schools finals are staged at under-19, under-16, and under-14 levels.

FOOTBALL

May's shot is decisive for Carthusians

THE successes of **Old Carthusians** and **Old Reptonians** in the Arthur Dunn Cup semi-finals guarantees a North v South final at Motspur Park on April 6 (George Chesterton writes).

Carthusians moved into the final for the nineteenth time after Spackman had scored for **Old Brentwoods** against the run of play. Caravan's spectacular dive to head home a May free kick brought the equaliser, but goal-line clearances kept Carthusians at bay until five minutes from time. Then May shot the winner from Adamako's cross.

Although Reptonians were on top, **Lancing OB** hit the bar before half-time. Ten minutes after the interval Repton went ahead when Frost headed in. Their second goal came from Wale with only a minute left.

The Milroy can complete treble

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

THE Milroy, a wide-margin winner of his last two races, can complete a treble in the Bet With The Tote Novices' Chase Qualifier at Folkestone today.

The forecast going on the chase course at the east Kent course is good to firm and that will suit my selection perfectly as his Doncaster and Windsor victories were both gained on precisely that going.

The Milroy is trained by Oliver Sherwood who remains adamant that fast ground is a prerequisite for the eight-year-old, even though his much more talented elder half-brother, Ten Plus, revelled in the soft.

Following a couple of setbacks at Newbury and Cheltenham, The Milroy beat Cot Lane by a distance at Doncaster in December and the following month was particularly impressive in beating Brave Setanta by 20 lengths at Windsor.

Undeterred by that defeat, connections of Brave Setanta have decided that it is worth their while taking up the challenge again. But a 7lb weight swing in their favour does not look sufficient.

The main threat to The Milroy may come from What A To Do, who finished fast when dividing Gingerland and Country Cap over three miles at Huntingdon last time and will be well suited by today's slightly longer trip.

Jamie Osborne, who rides The Milroy, can initiate a double on Derab in the first division of the Somerfield Court Novices' Hurdle.

A winner on the Flat at Newmarket and Pontefract as a three-year-old when trained by Jeremy Tree and of three races on the Flat in France last year, Derab clearly has the ability to make a successful jumping debut for his current handler Simon Sherwood.

While Osborne and Oliver Sherwood will have hopes of winning the second division of the Somerford Court Novices' Hurdle with Seventh Lock, I feel that they will be dashed by Richard Dunwoody on Shades Of Peace, who had good form on the Flat in France where he was trained by Andre Fabre.

Even if What A To Do fails to beat The Milroy at Folkestone, his owner, John Sumner, should still have cause to celebrate because Bit Of A Clown, who is trained by his daughter, Victoria McKie, is napped to win the Richmond Maiden Chase.

Victory for Bit Of A Clown would be no more than he deserves after showing consistent form at Warwick, Hereford and Towcester where he was placed on each occasion.

Although he was certainly flattered by the margin of his defeat at Warwick last time when he was beaten two-and-a-half lengths by Party Politics, he will not have to cope with one so talented as Nick Gaselee's Gold Cup contender today.

The programme on the north Yorkshire course could easily begin with Applianceofscience (2.15) winning there again for George Moore.

Michael Hammond, Moore's former stable jockey, now turned trainer, may fare even better by landing a double with The Maltkiln (3.45) and First Shadow (4.45).

The Maltkiln, my selection for the Peter Vaux Memorial Trophy, has already won over today's course and distance this season and was possibly unlucky not to have recorded a second success there on New Year's Day when he fell at the second last fence while still holding every chance.

Home secretary warns of limited government help

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, yesterday warned the racing industry not to expect too much outside help from the government, when the whole country was in the grip of a recession.

Speaking at the Tote's annual lunch in London yesterday, Baker struck much the same note as had Lord Hesketh in the recent House of Lords debate. Calling on racing's rulers to take a hard look at themselves if they were to cope with the demands of the next decade, Baker said: "That might mean mean cutbacks affecting the smaller racecourse, and selling off some assets."

The home secretary also doubted the worth of a further wide-ranging enquiry into future financing, and added that no early decision was likely on the future of the Tote.

"There are many eminent experts deliberating over the state of racing," he said. "When the committee produces their full report I will be giving very careful consideration to the recommendations which they make.

"I do not want to pre-empt the committee's conclusions, and of course the government will, in due course, respond to their report. But I must say I do not think that another wide-ranging enquiry on top of the home affairs committee's enquiry would be the right way to make progress towards the solution of the difficulties racing faces.

"The Tote will soon be under the home affairs committee's microscope and I will value the committee's comments. But I hope I will not disappoint too many of you when I say I am not on the point of making an announcement on the future of the Tote."

Lord Wyatt, the Tote chairman, was in his usual magnificent form. Despite being under fire from all sides after his recent reappointment, the chairman hit back at his attackers with some witty and well-aimed salvoes.

In particular, the Jockey Club's recent criticism of the Tote's management had obviously nettled Lord Wyatt. He said that the Jockey Club's plea for more money, currently being heard by the home affairs committee, would benefit from a more constructive approach. He also felt that slanging matches with the bookmakers were doing more harm than good.

"The Jockey Club appears to be at odds with the Racecourse Association," said Lord Wyatt. "And certainly the uninformed way they bash the bookmakers won't win their co-operation.

"I believe the bookmakers can be persuaded to cough up more, but only after careful analytical research presented, not as a threat, but in a friendly style through the well-run Levy Board."

Lord Wyatt had been surprised by recent criticisms of the Tote's profits and claimed that until the government allowed a Tote monopoly the bookmakers would always be in the ascendancy.

Champion opts for Sondrio

By MICHAEL SEELY

PETER Scudamore has elected to ride Sondrio in Tuesday's Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham. Barry Hills has therefore booked Richard Dunwoody for Scudamore's rejected mount, the former favourite, Nomadic Way.

To complete the big-race moves, Charlie Brooks has snapped up the services of Jamie Osborne for the much-improved Black Humour, who has been backed from 50-1 to 16-1 in the past week.

Scudamore had originally intended to partner last year's runner-up, Nomadic Way, but has changed his mind since the six-year-old was beaten for the second time this season at Haydock on Friday.

"It wasn't easy choosing between Sondrio and Black Humour," said the reigning champion jockey. "Sondrio's the form horse and he's trained by Martin Pipe so I'm obliged to ride him."

Talking at yesterday's Tote lunch, Barry Hills said there were no obvious excuses for Nomadic Way's Haydock run. "It was very tacky ground. Perhaps it would have been better to have had more use made of him. We'll just have to hope for the best."

On the Gold Cup front, Graham McCourt said yesterday that he intended standing by last year's winner Norton's Coin rather than partner Neale Doughty's rejected.

Explaining his decision, McCourt said: "I'd like to think you could forget his Irish run. He obviously wasn't right and ran very well before that behind Celtic Shot at Cheltenham."

Eddery rides Absonal

RIDING plans for the William Hill Lincoln at Doncaster on March 23 became clearer yesterday when Pat Eddery, Willie Carson and Frankie Dettori, all looking to win the race for the first time, confirmed their big-race mounts.

Eddery rides the Richard Hannon-trained Absonal, who scored four times last season, while Carson teams up with Lord Of Tusmore, on whom he landed a valuable handicap for Barry Hills at Newbury last autumn. Dettori's services have been secured by Bryan McMahon for Band On The Run.

Alan Munro, successful on Evichster 12 months ago, partners Platonique for Lynda Ramsden while other definite engagements include John Reid on the Irish-trained Lepoushka and Walter Swinburn on the ante-post favourite, Selaah.

Dare holds a strong hand

ALISON Dare, the 1990 champion, has three good chances to belatedly get off the mark at the South Herefordshire point-to-point today (Brian Beel writes).

Mendip Express has My Mellow Man to beat in the ladies' open while Fennelly and Grademount have a choice of races.

TODAY'S MEETING: South Herefordshire, Garnons, 7m W of Hereford (first race 12.30).

CATTERICK BRIDGE

Selections

By Mandarin
2.15 Applianceofscience.
2.45 BIT OF A CLOWN (nap).
3.15 Pago.
3.45 The Maltkiln.
4.15 Sassy Bonne.
4.45 First Shadow.
5.15 Singing Sam.

By Thunderer
2.15 Applianceofscience.
2.45 Bit Of A Clown.
3.15 Pic Negre.
3.45 The Demon Barber.
4.15 March Ahead.
4.45 Arctic Paddy.
5.15 Singing Sam.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.45 BIT OF A CLOWN (nap).
Brian Beel's selection: 4.45 Caro Wood.

Going: good

SIS

2.15 HORNBY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,475: 2m) (21 runners)

1 /86/114 SKELETOR 70 (D,G) (T Tate) T Tate 5-11-11 ... W Fry (7) ● 99
2 221 APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 14 (CD,G) (Miss V Foster) G Moore 4-11-3 ... M Dwyer 97
3 CAETANI 971F (G Shouler) M W Easterby 7-11-3 ... C Ryan (7) —
4 05 FIVE FELLOWS 11 (D Andrew) G Richards 5-11-3 ... G McCourt —
5 5-P0 FOSSWAY MERCHANT 34 (Lady Renwick) G Coatsworth 5-11-3 ... T Reed —
6 002 ROCKET LAUNCHER 50 (W O'Gorman) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-3 ... M D Byrne —
7 P/P0-P0P SONIC LORD 4 (B) (B Gee) B Gee 5-11-3 ... Mr P Gee —
8 05-0U00 STAR OATS 11 (A Duff) G Richards 5-11-3 ... N Doughty —
9 PP000 STRONG SILVER 39 (Mrs A Johnson) R Johnson 5-11-3 ... Mr P Johnson —
10 AN NOVA 47F (D Walsh) A Stringer 7-10-12 ... J J Quinn —
11 4P0 MY MUSZKA 14 (Mrs A Watkinson) S Norton 7-10-12 ... P Niven 92
12 0 SAGE BRUSH 14 (Miss A Smith) B Wilkinson 5-10-12 ... J Callaghan (3) —
13 58002 DULVERTON 60 (R Flegg) J Parkes 4-10-9 ... N Smith (5) 75
14 P DUTCH BLUES 59 (B Pratt) Mrs S Austin 4-10-9 ... D Wilkinson —
15 P GO BOY GO 75 (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 4-10-9 ... A Stanford (7) —
16 00 GRANITTON BAY 61 (V) (D Gill) Miss J Barclay 4-10-9 ... B Storey —
17 456555 HOLDFORTH 7 (R Coleman) Denys Smith 4-10-9 ... C Grant 85
18 U IRISH DITTY 7 (B Nutsell) K Morgan 4-10-9 ... A S Smith (5) —
19 00003 LE JOUEUR 25 (Mrs A Porter) Mrs P Barker 4-10-9 ... C Hawkins 75
20 0320P RACECALL GOLD CARD 11 (J Cowan) A Potts 4-10-9 ... B McGill (5) 89
21 RURAL OUTFIT (Mrs S Hutchinson) M Dods 4-10-9 ... A Merrigan —

BETTING: 15-8 Skeletor, 11-4 Applianceofscience, 7-2 My Muszka, 15-2 Caetani, 10-1 Holdforth, 14-1 Le Joueur, 16-1 others.

1990: LAST 'O' THE BUNCH 6-11-6 J Callaghan (10-11 fav) E Weymes 5 ran

FORM FOCUS SKELETOR poor 55l 4th to Keelby at Market Rasen (2m 1f, good to soft). Previously easily beat Ivorosk 20l at Newcastle (2m, good). APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE well-backed 1½l winner from Persuasive here (2m, good), with MY MUSZKA (10lb better off) ¾l 3rd, HOLDFORTH (8lb better off) 6¾l 5th, SAGE BRUSH (10lb better off) well-beaten 9th and STAR OATS (10lb better off) never dangerous 14th. ROCKET LAUNCHER 3½l 2nd to Emerald Venture in a National Hunt flat race at Southwell (AW, 1m 6f). DULVERTON running-on ½l 2nd to Diamond Path in seller at Market Rasen (2m 1f, good to soft). LE JOUEUR one-paced 20l 3rd to Singing Forever at Southwell (AW, 2m). RACECALL GOLD CARD 15l 2nd to Equinor at Ascot (2m, good to firm) in November. Disappointing since. CAETANI beat Eskimo Mite 1½l in maiden on the Flat at Newmarket (1m 6f, good to firm) in May 1987.
Selection: SKELETOR (nap)

2.45 RICHMOND MAIDEN CHASE (£2,310: 3m 1f 80yd) (13 runners)

1 0P ARROW VALLEY LAD 70 (Arrow Valley Transport Ltd) C Trietline 6-11-8 ... R Marley —
2 4-42232 BIT OF A CLOWN 63 (J Sumner) Mrs I McKie 8-11-8 ... J Duggan 94
3 6324FU EASTERN MINSTREL 61 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 7-11-8 ... C Grant 86
4 3/42F- KITANGO 345 (D Kennedy) L Lungo 10-11-8 ... L O'Hara (3) ● 99
5 UP LUCKY FELLOW 88 (Mrs E Slack) Mrs E Slack 9-11-8 ... K Doolan —
6 43-640P ORIENTAL DREAM 8 (D Humphries) F Yardley 7-11-8 ... D Byrne —
7 0-PPUSP PRAIRIE STORM 41 (V) (A Wates) T Etherington 7-11-8 ... G McCourt —
8 0-3553P SOMBRERO GOLD 43 (S Warr) T Tate 7-11-8 ... G Bradley —
9 433453 SUKAAB 37 (T Hurst) G Richards 6-11-8 ... N Doughty 83
10 P3048/0 TORRINGTON WARRIOR 16 (D Todd) D Todd 11-11-8 ... A J Quinn —
11 622-3F4 YORK IMPERIAL 41 (B Gee) B Gee 10-11-8 ... P Niven 78
12 4/2-6525 CAROUSEL CROSSETT 4 (E Caine) E Caine 10-11-3 ... Mr J Beardsall 79
13 00/ MILL FARM GIRL 816 (Miss C Mahoney) Miss J Barclay 8-11-3 ... B Storey —

BETTING: 4-5 Bit Of A Clown, 5-1 Eastern Minstrel, 11-2 York Imperial, 8-1 Kitango, 12-1 Carousel Crossett, 14-1 Sukaab, 16-1 Sombrero Gold, 20-1 others.

1990: NO CORESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS BIT OF A CLOWN possibly flattered when 2½l 2nd of 3 behind Party Politics at Warwick (3m 1f, soft). KITANGO ¾l 2nd to Mademist Susie in a hunter chase at Newcastle (3m, firm) last March. SOMBRERO GOLD, led 4 out, when 6l 3rd to Ballymore Park in a maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, good to soft). SUKAAB 15l 3rd to Mirandinha in novice chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good), with CAROUSEL CROSSETT (same terms) 4l 5th. YORK IMPERIAL 2½l 2nd to Hey Rawley (pair clear) in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 6f, good to soft). Weakened 4 out when 14l 4th to Gingerland at Huntingdon (3m, good), with PRAIRIE STORM (same terms) tailed off when pulled up before 3 out. CAROUSEL CROSSETT distant 2nd to Complete Optimist in novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: YORK IMPERIAL

3.15 RUDBY SELLING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,689: 2m) (10 runners)

1 CAXTON 176F (J Burgess) G Moore 10-12 ... M Dwyer —
2 2432 PAGO 8 (B) (J Mulligan) J J O'Neill 10-12 ... L Wyer ● 99
3 535 PIC NEGRE 76 (Mrs C Chapman) S Norton 10-12 ... P Niven 89
4 002 REFLECTIVE 34 (B) (Mrs D Sharp) W Pearce 10-12 ... D Wilkinson 88
5 0FP0P SCALAMON 34 (S Brown) M Barnes 10-12 ... F Murtagh (7) —
6 00 WHITEWEBB 54 (North East Paper Co Ltd) B Murray 10-12 ... R Marley —
7 CHANTERESSE 12F (Mrs J Lambton) W Bentley 10-7 ... G Harker —
8 056 HIGHLAND RIVER 76 (Miss K Clark) C Parker 10-7 ... B Storey 86
9 0 MAY BE BOLD 43 (P Warburton) K Morgan 10-7 ... A S Smith (5) —
10 0 MIA FILLIA 5F (Full Circle G Plc) N Tinkler 10-7 ... G McCourt —

BETTING: 11-4 Mia Fillia, 3-1 Pic Negre, 4-1 Caxton, 11-2 Highland River, 6-1 May Be Bold, 8-1 Pago, 14-1 Reflective, 25-1 others.

1990: ESTONIA 4-10-7 M Hill (3-1 jt-fav) N Tinkler 10 ran

FORM FOCUS PAGO running-on 2½l 2nd to Rawaan at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). PIC NEGRE 17½l 3rd to Leven Baby in claimer at Sedgefield (2m, soft). Previously 14l 3rd to Legal Streak at Bangor (2m, soft), with PAGO (same terms) 2½l 4th and REFLECTIVE (same terms) 20l 7th. REFLECTIVE 3l 2nd to Al Frolic in a claimer at Edinburgh (2m, good), with SCALAMON (8lb better off) tailed off and pulled up before last. MIA FILLIA did not get clear run when less than 1l 3rd to Dearest in handicap on the Flat at Southwell (AW, 1m) last week. Tailed off behind Cornwall Prince in good novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft) in November. CAXTON 5½l 5th to Useyleh in handicap on the Flat at Goodwood (1m 1f, good).
Selection: MIA FILLIA

3.45 PETER VAUX MEMORIAL TROPHY (Handicap Chase: £2,846: 3m 1f 80yd) (5 runners)

1 P-31F8P THE DEMON BARBER 65 (CD,F,G,S) (R Cupps) G Richards 9-12-0 ... N Doughty 98
2 45P03P SAMFEN 30 (B,CD,F,G,S) (F Ballard) M H Easterby 9-11-2 ... L Wyer 93
3 P-162P4 SEE YOU THERE 65 (V,CD,F,S) (J Murdoch) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-10-6 ... M Dwyer 97
4 321FP-P PARSON'S CROSS 128 (F,G) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 7-10-5 ... C Grant 93
5 P-31RF0 THE MALTKILN 33 (B,CD,G,S) (H Young) M Hammond 8-10-1 ... P Niven ● 99

BETTING: 2-1 The Maltkiln, 11-4 The Demon Barber, 3-1 See You There, 7-2 Samfen, 10-1 Parson's Cross.

1990: THE WILK 11-11-10 C Grant (5-1) W A Stephenson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS THE DEMON BARBER's best effort this season was when beating SEE YOU THERE (5lb better off) 12l over course and distance (good to firm). SAMFEN's best recent effort was when 3l 3rd to Bonnie Artist over course and distance (good to soft), with THE MALTKILN (1lb better off) falling at the second last when in the lead. SEE YOU THERE 9l 4th to Travel Over over course and distance (good), with THE DEMON BARBER pulled up. PARSON'S CROSS, winner at Sedgefield (3m 2f 160yd, good to soft) last season, pulled up in the race won by Snowfire Chap over same course and distance (good to soft) in October. THE MALTKILN, winner over course and distance (good) in November, blundered 3 out when well-beaten 7th to Radical Lady at Kelso (3m 4f, good to firm).
Selection: THE MALTKILN

4.15 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,075: 2m) (11 runners)

1 440724 DAWAAM 23 (D) (W Lockey) B Wilkinson 5-11-5 ... R Garritty ● 99
2 0-4 BRILL BOY 13 (S Croucher) Mrs I McKie 5-11-0 ... J Duggan —
3 043/6-00 GOOD SEOUL 82 (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 7-11-0 ... A Stanford (7) 78
4 040 MARCH AHEAD 14 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 5-11-0 ... Mr K Johnson 80
5 880033 PRINCE BISHOP 34 (B) (N Miller) N Miller 5-11-0 ... A Heywood (7) 87
6 4055- SAUCY TOUCH 285 (R Swiers) R Swiers 5-11-0 ... Mr S Swiers —
7 00 SHREWD JOHN 37 (H Clay) R Woodhouse 5-11-0 ... R Marley —
8 LA REINE COQUINE (Castle Milk Stables) L Lungo 7-10-9 ... L O'Hara (3) —
9 6-065 MEGA BLUE 69 (B Riley & Son Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-10-9 ... M Dwyer 80
10 6-25 SASSY BONNE 119 (BF) (E Madden) G Richards 5-10-9 ... N Doughty 93
11 3360-55 SWIFT CARRIAGE 65 (R Elliott) W Storey 5-10-9 ... K Doolan 78

BETTING: 11-4 Sassy Bonne, 4-1 Dawaam, 6-1 March Ahead, 8-1 Mega Blue, 10-1 Brill Boy, 12-1 Prince Bishop, 14-1 La Reine Coquine, 16-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING

FORM FOCUS DAWAAM 13¾l 4th to Peak District at Southwell (AW, 2m). Previously ¾l 2nd to Mukir over same course and distance (AW, 2m). BRILL BOY 41l 4th to Vodka Fizz at Folkestone (2m 100yd, good to soft). MARCH AHEAD best of three efforts when 29l 4th to Rodeo Star at Wetherby (2m, soft), with DAWAAM 13th. PRINCE BISHOP just over 5l 3rd to Lucy Minstrel at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good). SASSY BONNE 20l 5th to La Bucheron at Uttoxeter (2m, good). MEGA BLUE 30½l 6th to Takla at Market Rasen (2m 1f, good to soft). SWIFT CARRIAGE 50l 5th to Blackaburg over course and distance (good).
Selection: DAWAAM

4.45 RMC GROUP PLC NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,608: 3m 1f 80yd) (13 runners)

1 2U4/3-P ARCTIC PADDY 13 (R Russell) R Russell 8-11-9 ... R Russell (7) 96
2 0/P08/ CARO WOOD 1024 (F) (D Smith) D Smith 10-11-9 ... N Smith (7) —
3 6P/2 CONVINCING 7 (J Cornforth) J Cornforth 7-11-9 ... P Cornforth (7) ● 99
4 P-P CULLANE 7 (J Greenall) W A Stephenson 7-11-9 ... J Greenall (3) —
5 PF DAVBATON 7 (J Parkes) J Parkes 9-11-9 ... S Charlton (7) —
6 JORDANSTOWN HOUSE (Mrs A Barnett) Mrs A Barnett 9-11-9 ... Miss K Barnett (7) —
7 TANCRED WAY (R Shield) R Shield 8-11-9 ... R Shield —
8 45/3423- THE UNDERGRADUATE 435 (B,S) (C Trietline) C Trietline 12-11-9 ... Miss J Butler (7) 95
9 P/4FU6- VALORODO 494 (F,G) (N Tutty) Mrs K Tutty 11-11-9 ... Mrs K Tutty (7) 80
10 YOUNG ALBERT (Mrs B Sanderson) Mrs B Sanderson 9-11-9 ... N Tutty (5) —
11 2 FIRST SHADOW 7 (R Scholey) M Hammond 10-11-4 ... S Lyons (7) 98
12 U/8R06- NOT QUITE A LADY 281 (C Holden) C Holden 12-11-4 ... Mrs L Ward (7) —
13 FPU065- OAKLANDS GREY 352 (R Russ) R Russ 9-11-4 ... Miss S Williamson (7) —

BETTING: 3-1 Arctic Paddy, 7-2 Convincing, 4-1 First Shadow, 8-1 Caro Wood, Not Quite A Lady, 10-1 Davbaton, 12-1 Cullane, 14-1 others.

1990: OLD NICK 9-11-2 Mr N Smith (7-2) Mrs H Bell 11 ran

FORM FOCUS ARCTIC PADDY put up best effort under Rules when 6¾l 4th to Scotch On The Rock at Cheltenham (2m 4f, firm). CONVINCING 10l 2nd to Knockumshin at Wetherby (2m 4f 100yd, soft), with FIRST SHADOW (same terms) ½l 3rd, DAVBATON falling and CULLANE pulling up. JORDANSTOWN HOUSE ran well for long way when 25l 6th to Steele Justice in Ladies Open at Alnwick (3m, soft) recently. TANCRED WAY beat Thursday Man 1l in Restricted Open at Sinnington (3m, good) last season. THE UNDERGRADUATE distance 3rd to Gadbrook at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, good to firm). OAKLANDS GREY 74l 5th to Quessimi at Newcastle (2m 4f, firm).
Selection: CONVINCING

5.15 GRUNWICK STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,719: 2m) (14 runners)

1 1 SINGING SAM 102 (G) (Mrs J Turpin) J Edwards 6-12-3 ... Mr A Farrant (7) —
2 DEEP CHANCE (Mrs M Curtis) Jimmy FitzGerald 5-11-10 ... W Dwan (7) —
3 0 FAIR CAPPED 117 (J Turner) J Turner 5-11-10 ... W Fry (7) —
4 6 OLD MILL STREAM 14 (W Raw) W A Stephenson 5-11-10 ... Mr K Johnson —
5 5 TAVAMAROO 14 (P Carr & Partners) Mrs G Reveley 5-11-10 ... R Hodge (7) —
6 10 INCONCLUSIVE 37 (G) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 4-11-9 ... J O'Gorman (3) —
7 0 EMMA JOE 16 (A Sayles) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-5 ... P Mulligan (7) —
8 BIG MAC (K Lee) A Harrison 4-11-2 ... F Murtagh (7) —
9 0 DOMINO PRINCE 37 (L Doran) S Kettlewell 4-11-2 ... D Bentley (7) —
10 PIPER O'DRUMMOND (Mrs C Calver) P Calver 4-11-2 ... Gary Lyons (3) —
11 PRI NEUKIN (Mrs S Gospel) Mrs S Gospel 4-11-2 ... Mrs J Brown —
12 CAROLE'S DELIGHT (M K Dods) M Dods 4-10-11 ... Mr N Wilson (7) —
13 0 PIERS DELIGHT 14 (W Lockey) B Wilkinson 4-10-11 ... J Callaghan (3) —
14 0 ROSIE RUNNER 40 (Mrs M Christian) M H Easterby 4-10-11 ... L Mulvaney (7) —

BETTING: 13-8 Singing Sam, 7-2 Deep Chance, 5-1 Tavamaroo, 13-2 Inconclusive, 10-1 Rosie Runner, 12-1 Emma Joe, 14-1 Old Mill Stream, 16-1 others.

1990: MR WOODCOCK 5-11-3 R Hodge (3-1 fav) Mrs G Reveley 17 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
N Tinkler	16	55	29.1
G Richards	23	109	21.1
M H Easterby	19	96	19.8
J J O'Neill	4	23	17.4
Mrs G Reveley	9	54	16.7
Jimmy Fitzgerald	19	116	16.4

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G McCourt	6	22	27.3
R Hodge	3	12	25.0
N Doughty	18	83	21.7
A J Quinn	5	25	20.0
J Callaghan	7	38	18.4
D Byrne	6	34	17.6

● Ray Goldstein returns home to Sussex today after his fall at Market Rasen on Saturday. The jockey, who broke his right thigh as well as fracturing a shoulder blade and sustaining torn knee ligaments, will travel in a specially-adapted Range Rover under the care of racecourse doctor Graham Parry.

SOUTHWELL

Selections

By Mandarin
1.55 Qannaas. 2.35 Curvet. 3.5 Mukir. 3.35 Valiant Dash. 4.5 Blakesware Prince. 4.35 Clos Du Bois.

By Thunderer
1.55 Hope End. 2.35 Dru Ri's Bru Ri. 3.5 Crisp Note. 3.35 Invite D'Honneur. 4.5 Construction. 4.35 Leacroft.

Michael Seely's selection: 4.5 Blakesware Prince.

Going: good (chase course); standard (hurdles)

1.55 DESIGN CONTRACTORS HANDICAP CHASE (Turf: £2,583: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 12-4 MEMBERS' REVENGE 109 (C,F) S Christian 10-12-0 —
2 2U14 QANNAAS 47 (B,D,F,S) Mrs D Haine 7-11-13 ... S Smith Eccles
3 P25P RED COLUMBIA 15 (C,S) K Wingrove 10-11-12 ... —
4 UU-F BROCKHILL BOY 4 (D,S) C Beever 9-11-10 ... —
5 D42P MENINGI 34 (D,F,G,S) Mrs H Parrott 10-11-10 ... R Bellamy (3)
6 PP51 CAL MAL 9 (D,F,G,S) M Chapman 13-11-8 (6ex) ... D Bridgwater (7)
7 4UP0 ABEROY 13 (D,F) M Ryan 12-11-7 ... J McLaughlin
8 4324 SURELY NOT 128 (D,G,S) T Bill 9-10-13 ... —
9 SPPP ABLE SAILOR 4 (B,G,S) C Smith 11-10-3 ... Mr M Ranger (7)
10 -255 SCALE MODEL 35 (B) J Roper 9-10-3 ... R Hyett
11 35PP WISE CRACKER 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) B Richmond 10-10-2 ... J A Harris
12 325U HOPE END 15 (CD,F,G,S) R Dickin 13-10-2 ... S Earle

11-4 Qannas, 7-2 Aberoy, 9-2 Members' Revenge, 6-1 Cal Mal, 8-1 Hope End, 10-1 Meningi, 12-1 Surely Not, 14-1 others.

2.35 HOCKERTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (All-weather: £1,822: 2m) (11)

1 4095 OCCAMIST 9 (CD,F) B Preece 6-11-10 ... A Juckes (5)
2 4535 CURVET 16 (D,F) M Chapman 6-11-5 ... D Bridgwater (7)
3 034P STRAIGHT LACED 7F (B) A Reid 4-11-4 ... D Gallagher
4 F004 IVORDOLL 56 A Smith 6-11-3 ... S Turner
5 06P0 JUST GREAT 23 (B) R Juckes 5-10-12 ... —
6 1P-0 DRU RI'S BRU RI 14 (CD) W Smith 5-10-12 ... D Condell
7 -P60 FOUR ALLS LADY 14 (V) J Wainwright 5-10-9 ... —
8 0-65 SOUTHROP 35 D Bell 5-10-8 ... Gee Armytage
9 P0F MEXICAN VISION 62 I Campbell 4-10-6 ... R Campbell
10 000 DANDY'S GIRL 90 R Marvin 6-10-0 ... W Worthington
11 F000 WILD DANCER 90 J Thomas 4-10-0 ... D Tegg

3-1 Southrop, 4-1 Curvet, 5-1 Occamist, 6-1 Four Alls Lady, 8-1 Ivordoll, Just Great, 10-1 Dru Ri's Bru Ri, 12-1 others.

3.5 EDWINSTONE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (All-weather: £1,733: 2m) (8)

1 P113 MUKIR 13 (CD,BF) P Walwyn 5-11-10 ... P Scudamore
2 0023 WEDDING FEAST 9 (B) J McConnochie 5-10-9 ... J Shortt
3 032 SKY FIGHTER 44 (BF) J H Wilson 4-10-8 ... —
4 6SP0 CRISP NOTE 40 J Old 7-10-5 ... N Coleman
5 3433 GREEN ISLAND 13 (D,F) A Dunn 5-10-4 ... B Clifford (7)
6 -080 DOLLY PRICES 32 W Smith 6-10-0 ... D Condell
7 5063 ICHI BAN SON 9 (B) A Smith 7-10-0 ... S Turner
8 P0P/ SONG AN'DANCE MAN 882 Mrs A Lee 8-10-0 ... D Gallagher

5-4 Mukir, 7-2 Wedding Feast, 6-1 Sky Fighter, 8-1 Green Island, 10-1 Ichi Ban Son, 12-1 Crisp Note, 14-1 others.

3.35 LONG BENNINGTON CLAIMING HURDLE (Allweather: £1,704: 2m 4f) (6)

1 8112 VALIANT DASH 11 (D,BF,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 5-11-12 ... C Quinn (7)
2 P3 CHRONOLOGICAL 8 (V) M Tompkins 5-11-4 ... S Smith Eccles
3 36 INVITE D'HONNEUR 42 Mrs S Oliver 9-11-4 ... Jacqui Oliver
4 422F SILVER STRINGS 20 B Palling 11-11-1 ... C Evans
5 P302 CLEAVERS GATE 9 (B) N Tinkler 6-11-0 ... M Hill
6 -540 CARBON LADY 9 (D,F) J Harris 6-10-8 ... J A Harris

7-4 Chronological, 100-30 Valiant Dash, 4-1 Silver Strings, 6-1 Cleavers Gate, 10-1 Carbon Lady, 12-1 Invite D'Honneur.

4.5 RACING POST JOCKEYS CHAMPIONSHIP NOVICES HURDLE (All-weather: £1,631: 2m 4f) (8)

1 421 BLAKESWARE PRINCE 55 M Tompkins 5-11-8 ... S Smith Eccles
2 3-20 CONSTRUCTION 151 Mrs J Bresea 6-11-3 ... T Morgan
3 300 DARE DAGO 9 J Harris 7-11-3 ... J A Harris
4 00/ HOUSE HUNTER 798 P Cowley 10-11-3 ... T Fuller (7)
5 4P00 RAJANPOUR 15 R Curtis 6-11-3 ... R Beggan
6 F ROYAL CAVALIER 36 Mrs S Oliver 7-11-3 ... R Hyett
7 -422 JANE CRAIG 9 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-12 ... P Scudamore
8 COPPER RIVER 40F R Hollinshead 4-10-8 ... Mr S Wynne (7)

11-4 Blakesware Prince, 7-2 Jane Craig, 4-1 Copper River, 6-1 Construction, 8-1 Rajanpour, 10-1 others.

4.35 GOVERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (All-weather: £1,586: 2m) (3)

1 0112 HIRAM B BIRDBATH 132 (B,CD,S) J Glover 5-12-0 ... S D Williams (7)
2 5021 CLOS DU BOIS 11F (CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 5-10-10 ... Mr S Wynne (7)
3 0331 LEACROFT 16 (CD,G) W Haigh 7-10-8 ... Ger Lyons

6-4 Clos Du Bois, 7-4 Hiram B Birdbath, 4-1 Leacroft.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: Mrs D Haine 10 winners from 15 runners, 66.7%; J Glover 7 from 13, 53.8%; S Kettlewell 4 from 11, 36.4%; M Ryan 3 from 9, 33.3%; R Hollinshead 14 from 45, 31.1%; M Tompkins 4 from 16, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles 13 winners from 33 rides, 39.4%; A Juckes 9 from 35, 25.7%; Mr S Wynne 3 from 16, 18.8%. (Only qualifiers).

FOLKESTONE

Selections

By Mandarin
2.00 Derab.
2.30 War Child.
3.00 The Milroy.
3.30 Tom Bir.
4.00 Teniente.
4.30 Shades Of Peace.

By Thunderer
2.00 Derab.
2.30 Eastern Quartet.
3.00 The Milroy.
3.30 Tom Bir.
4.00 SKYLARK WONDER (nap).
4.30 Shades Of Peace.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.30 Tom Bir.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 DUNRAVEN ROYAL.

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

SIS

2.0 SOMERFIELD COURT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,463: 2m 100yd) (7 runners)

1 P ARDROSS BEST 81F (Bromley Racing Associates) Miss H Knight 5-11-6 ... B Dowling —
2 DERAB 131F (Mrs E Brown) S Sherwood 5-11-6 ... J Osborne —
3 OPEN SESAME 870F (W Shober) M Bradstock 5-11-6 ... P Holley —
4 0-00 SHORT SHOT 57 (N Jones) A Moore 5-11-6 ... G Moore —
5 00-043 SOCIETY GUEST 14 (Robinson Webster (Holdings) Ltd) A Turnell 5-11-6 ... S McNeill ● 99
6 U TREMEIRCHION 42 (Lord Mostyn) N Henderson 5-11-6 ... R Dunwoody 85
7 02/ PEARLS A RUNNER 648F (Miss T Pile) R Curtis 5-11-1 ... D Morris —

BETTING: 2-1 Derab, 100-30 Society Guest, 9-2 Tremeirchion, 11-2 Pearls A Runner, 12-1 Open Sesame, 16-1 Ardross Best, Short Shot.

1990: MANDER'S WAY 5-11-6 R Beggan (2-1 fav) Miss H Knight 14 ran

2.30 PEASMARSH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,983: 2m 6f) (20 runners) — 93

1 00SR5R TORKABAR 1 (B) (N Coulson-Stevens) G Ham 8-12-0 ... P Barnard 87
2 64-500P STORMWATCH 62 (G,S) (O Pierce) D Gandolfo 8-11-10 ... J Clarke (7) 93
3 4682-P5 WAR CHILD 33 (B) (J Bird) A Moore 7-11-3 ... J Neaves (5) 98
4 306344 POP DANCER 8 (B,F) (Mrs S Finch) W G M Turner 8-10-7 ... S Hodgson — —
5 F440P5/ EASTERN QUARTET 559 (G Balding) G Balding 7-10-4 ... A Wingate (7) 99
6 55-0P44 TAKE NO TRASH 41 (D,S) (B Byford) B Byford 10-10-3 ... M A Fitzgerald (5) 96
7 03P406 BICKERSTAFFE 53 (G,S) (C Brinson) R Callow 10-10-2 ... S Burrough 83
8 P3F60P SELF AID 16 (F) (R Sale) J Roberts 8-10-1 ... J Kavanagh ● 99
9 8220-20 BALLY FRENCHMAN 13 (B) (Mrs C Fortescue) A Davison 7-10-0 ... G Crone (5) —
10 U05/000 CUVA 12 (B) (B Tetley) Mrs P Tetley 8-10-0 ... I Shoemark 91
11 303534 LONGGHURST 5 (G,S) (Heatfo Installations Ltd) B Forsey 8-10-0 ... S Hazell (5) 94
12 0-000P5 KRUSAVITCH 16 (G Lansbury) R Curtis 5-10-0 ... J Garland (7) 84
13 1/0-P655 STONE MADNESS 46 (D,G,S) (J Stone) A Davison 7-10-0 ... S Foster (3) 92
14 3/00106- IDIOT'S BEAUTY 303 (B Belchem) B McMath 10-10-0 ... I Williams (7) —
15 400/6P BORRETO 35 (C James) C James 7-10-0 ... — —
16 UP/0P THE CHAUFFEUR 87 (S) (S Jocham) Miss L Bower 9-10-0 ... Martin Jones —
17 0-PPP00 CHRISTO 7 (B,S) (D Clarke) D Wintle 9-10-0 ... M Stevens (5) 88
18 529-P06 SWEET THURSDAY 32 (V) (Mrs C Cruddace) B Stevens 5-10-0 ... D Skyrme —
19 10/F050 PANEL GAME 13 (S) (Miss N Ni Lucas) P Butler 7-10-0 ... R Boucher (3) —
20 P0P ZOFTIG 53 (J Barr) J Davies 5-10-0

Long handicap: Bally Frenchman 9-13, Cuva 9-8, Longghurst 9-8, Krusavitch 9-4, Stone Madness 9-3, Idiot's Beauty 9-2, Borreto 8-2, The Chauffeur 8-1, Christo 9-0, Sweet Thursday 8-13, Panel Game 8-8, Zoftig 7-11.

BETTING: 3-1 War Child, 4-1 Bickerstaffe, 5-1 Torkabar, 6-1 Pop Dancer, 8-1 Longghurst, Take No Trash, 10-1 Eastern Quartet, 12-1 others.

1990: CARFAX 5-11-5 M Hoad (11-4 jt-fav) R Hoad 10 ran

3.0 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,184: 3m 2f) (9 runners)

1 25-2011 THE MILROY 35 (F,G) (I Naylor) O Sherwood 8-11-10 ... J Osborne ● 99
2 342232 BRAVE SETANTA 35 (Miss J Menzies) F O'Mahony 6-10-10 ... Mr K Comerford (7) 87
3 0-00000 GARRY PIERRO 5 (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 8-10-10 ... B Powell —
4 0403-F HEART OF KINGS 47 (R Fairbairns) J Gifford 7-10-10 ... D Murphy —
5 402223 HOMME D'AFFAIRE 9 (C,F,G,S) (B Fry) R O'Sullivan 8-10-10 ... M Bowlby 89
6 000030 JIMSTRO 9 (R Bennett) D Wintle 8-10-10 ... A Carroll 89
7 P65-036 ROCKY PIT 7 (Mrs P Sullivan) J Redmond 9-10-10 ... Mr A Hickman (7) 84
8 580/PP-5 TUDOR SUN 57 (P Purdy) J Bennett 9-10-10 ... S Burrough —
9 68P-F62 WHAT A TO DO 41 (J Sumner) T Forster 7-10-10 ... C Llewellyn 94

BETTING: 8-11 The Milroy, 5-1 Brave Setanta, What A To Do, 7-1 Jimstro, 8-1 Homme D'Affaire, 16-1 Rocky Pit, 33-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.30 FAIR ROSAMUND HANDICAP CHASE (£2,588: 3m 2f) (14 runners)

1 4144/36 CUMREW 43 (B,G,S) (G Smart) T Forster 11-12-0 ... C Llewellyn 89
2 P54P21 TOM BIR 5 (F,S) (K Mackenzie) A Turnell 9-11-12 (6ex) ... S McNeill 90
3 61FF8/ QUITO PRINCE 727 (BF,G) (Lord Chelsea) T Forster 10-11-5 ... J Railton —
4 3P6324 DANDY MINSTREL 13 (F,G,S) (Windrush Racing) E Wheeler 7-11-0 ... M Bowlby 86
5 P/PP0-PP AUTUMN ZULU 51 (C,G,S) (Miss L Bower) Miss L Bower 12-10-12 ... S Hodgson (7) —
6 F/2F-4P6 MOUNTAIN CABIN 43 (Maj G Murray Smith) D Murray Smith 8-10-12 ... P Verling (3) 89
7 026P04 KAMADOOR 13 (F,S) (D Harvie) G Balding 8-10-6 ... R Guest 88
8 PP6P-24 JUDGEMENT DAY 8 (R Tooth) P Hobbs 8-10-1 ... C Maude (3) 87
9 00-F6F6 HARD TO LIVE 37 (F) (Miss J Sample) J Gifford 9-10-0 ... D Murphy —
10 P-P2242 DUNRAVEN ROYAL 8 (B) (S Glazer) R Curtis 8-10-0 ... D Morris ● 99
11 830F43 JIM BOWIE 13 (C,S) (R Butler) A Davison 8-10-0 ... J Kavanagh (3) 96
12 2-2234U MAJESTIC BRUNO 7 (Mrs D Fletcher) N Gaselee 7-10-0 ... E O'Dowd (7) 89
13 34650P PERNICKETY 7 (B,F) (R Weeks) C Popham 11-10-0 ... W Irvine 75
14 P/PP0P COURAGEOUS CHARGER 12 (F) (Mrs P Tetley) Mrs P Tetley 9-10-0 ... T Grantham —

Long handicap: Hard To Live 9-13, Dunraven Royal 9-13, Jim Bowie 9-13, Majestic Bruno 9-10, Pernickety 9-8, Courageous Charger 9-8.

BETTING: 9-4 Tom Bir, 4-1 Dunraven Royal, 8-1 Dandy Minstrel, Judgment Day, 10-1 Cumrew, Jim Bowie, 12-1 Kamadoor, 16-1 Mountain Cabin, 20-1 others.

1990: MR PINKERTON 11-11-6 B Powell (13-8) N Gaselee 6 ran

4.0 CLIFTONVILLE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,399: 2m) (5 runners)

1 P/213P6 SKYLARK WONDER 13 (D,G) (A Hunt) C Popham 9-11-10 ... S Donohoe (7) 94
2 42-222F TENIENTE 34 (CD,BF,G) (S Lawson) J Gifford 7-11-4 ... D Murphy 95
3 5-03363 HIGH IMP 90 (D,F,G,S) (P Leach) P Leach 11-10-11 ... M Perrett ● 99
4 U16434 SOLENT LAD 15 (D,F,G,S) (The I W Racing Club) B Stevens 8-10-3 ... M Stevens (7) 97
5 00/P259 AROUND TOWN 16 (V,D,F,G) (P Purdy) J Bennett 10-10-0 ... C Llewellyn 78

Long handicap: Around Town 9-8.

BETTING: 1-2 Teniente, 7-2 High Imp, 15-2 Skylark Wonder, 20-1 Solent Lad, 33-1 Around Town.

1990: EL GALILEO 8-10-10 J Osborne (14-1) O Sherwood 5 ran

4.30 SOMERFIELD COURT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,463: 2m 100yd) (12 runners)

1 22-222 BELL GLASS 56 (BF) (R Billingsley) J Jenkins 5-11-6 ... M Ahern (3) ● 99
2 P55U-00 BRILLIANT BAY 9 (Lambourn Racing Club) J Redmond 5-11-6 ... S McNeill 62
3 60F DOONLOUGHAN 13 (D Strauss) G Balding 6-11-6 ... J Frost 68
4 0/0 EPILENY 55 (A Goode) M Robinson 7-11-6 ... J White —
5 F GENOTIN 109 (Mrs J Ellis) S Mellor 8-11-6 ... M Perrett —
6 P MR BLAYZARR 9 (D Welsh) D Welsh 5-11-6 ... Mr A Hickman (7) —
7 U-6P0P PELHAM SUITE 15 (Pelham Hotel Racing Club) J Gifford 6-11-6 ... D Murphy 67
8 0-433 SEVENTH LOCK 67 (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-6 ... J Osborne 74
9 SHADES OF PEACE 271F (S Menens) N Henderson 5-11-6 ... R Dunwoody —
10 00 HAWAIIAN ROMANCE 47 (D Kirk) R Curtis 5-11-1 ... D Morris —
11 AMBROSE 132F R Johnson Houghton 4-10-10 ... Mr G Johnson Houghton —
12 F JALINGO 82 (Mrs A Shelton) P Makin 4-10-10 ... R Guest —

BETTING: 13-8 Shades Of Peace, 3-1 Seventh Lock, 4-1 Bell Glass, 8-1 Doonloughan, 16-1 Pelham Suite, 20-1 Ambrose, 33-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
D Murray Smith	8	29	27.6
G Balding	4	15	26.7
J Gifford	27	113	23.9
O Sherwood	9	40	22.5
N Gaselee	4	21	19.0
R O'Sullivan	3	17	17.6

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
D Murphy	7	29	24.1
J Frost	3	15	20.0
J White	3	16	18.8
B Powell	5	31	16.1
C Llewellyn	3	29	10.3

(Only qualifiers)

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Warwick

Going: good to soft

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, SPRINGALEAK (J Osborne, 4-5 fav; Mandarin's nap); 2, Logical Lady (N Mann, 11-2); 3, Flakey Dove (Mr D Duggan, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Sharriana (6th), 10 Against You (4th), 11 Deepky, 14 Audley Lady, 20 Royal Flamingo, 25 Kalogy (5th), 33 Outfield, 50 Here To-Day (pu), Royal Celt, 66 Kilmaloode (pu), 100 Absent Lover, Fairfield's Breeze, Farmer's Fun (pu), Impetulence (f), Little Stag, Maundy Mist (pu), Miss Powerhouse, Miss Simone (pu), Nonsuch Hero (pu), Starlace, Villa Bianca, Bursar (pu). 25 ran. 7l, 7l, 5l, 10l, 2l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £4.80. CSF: £6.90.

2.0 (3m 1f ch) 1, OAKGROVE (Mr S P Andrews, 5-1); 2, Ardesee (Mr J Wintle, 7-2); 3, West Tip (Mr A Sansome, 15-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 3 Whats He Sy (ur), 12 Good Waters (4th), 33 Wilsanith (6th), 50 Fame The Spur (f), Pyleigh Prince (5th). 8 ran. NR: Beech Grove, Busted Spring. 20l, 1½l, dist, dist, dist. E Knight at Basingstoke. Tote: £4.60; £1.10, £1.10, £1.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £21.08.

2.30 (2m 5f hdle) 1, ROSITARY (M Perrett, 3-1 fav); 2, Solar Cloud (33-1); 3, Kuwait Level (J Lodder, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Just Rose (5th), Gaelic Silver (f), 6 Monetary Fund (4th), 7 Basket Weave (pu), 9 Military Band, 10 Torkabar (ref), 12 Eltoo-Ess (pu), 25 Outlaw (pu), Cuesscard (pu), 50 Burampour (6th). 13 ran. 8l, 5l, 1½l, 4l, 25l. S Mellor at Wanborough. Tote: £4.20; £1.70, £6.50, £12.50. DF: £214.80. CSF: £84.28. Tricast: £2543.29.

3.0 (3m 4f 180yd ch) 1, RUBIKA (M Perrett, 13-8 fav); 2, Woodgate (C Llewellyn, 4-1); 3, Rymer King (M Lynch, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 L'Ane Rouge (pu), 9 Bumbles Folly (4th). 5 ran. 12l, sh hd, 3½l. S Mellor at Wanborough. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £2.60. DF: £4.90. CSF: £7.40.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, MORSER (G McCourt, 7-1); 2, Supreme Warrior (S Earle, 16-1); 3, Final Scene (S Burrough, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Tacaqeur, 2 Andrelot (4th), 9 Harlequin Lad (6th), 14 Reef Lark, 25 Patsberic, 33 Batsmal (5th), 50 Royal Alaska, 66 Eddies Fella, Tuff Stick (pu), Colwick Hall Lady. 13 ran. NR: Pull The Pin. 1½l, 2½l, 7l, 2l, 12l. M Ryan at Newmarket. Tote: £8.10; £2.00, £3.40, £2.80. DF: £57.00. CSF: £102.65.

4.0 (2m ch) 1, ROXALL CLUMP (M Richards, 5-1); 2, Blue Bourbon (N Mann, 9-4 fav); 3, Old Eros (J McLaughlin, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Tilcabo (5th), 7 Officer Growler (f), 15-2 Up-A-Point (4th), 12 Classical Quartet (pu), 20 Chain Shot, 23 Bloxham, 50 The Lidgate Star, Young Morston (f), 66 Ballinagore Gee (pu), Mister Tickle (6th), Cleo Lady (pu). 14 ran. NR: Spearhead Warrior. ½l, 1l, 2l, 20l, 15l. P Bailey at Wilsford-cum-Lake. Tote: £8.10; £2.40, £1.20, £4.70. DF: £9.70. CSF: £14.56.

4.30 (2m 5f hdle) 1, JUST AS I AM (A Mulholland, 9-1); 2, Essom Time (R Dunwoody, 4-1 fav); 3, Scottish Cloud (J Railton, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Celtic Sport (6th), 9 Embarkation (pu), 10 Kamakaze Girl, 11 Harbinger, 12 Woodland Flower (5th), 14 Lucky Landers, Sprucer, Celtic Diamond, 16 Maritime Fly, Tumbril, 20 Pride Of Newlands (pu), 25 Playpen (4th), 50 Impounded (pu), 66 Ann In Arm, Felspar (pu), Greyark (pu), Hazzard's Boy, Hill's Halo (pu), Northern Steel (pu), Soldier Bank (f), Moon Reef (pu), Lawnswood Boy (pu). 25 ran. 10l, 1½l, 5l, nk, 2½l. S Christian at Kinnersley. Tote: £11.40; £3.50, £3.10, £2.50. DF: £16.20. CSF: £45.35.

5.0 (2m 5f hdle) 1, COKENNY BOY (M Pitman, 8-1); 2, Nickle Joe (D Gallagher, 25-1); 3, Tagred (P Verling, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Everaldo (f), 11-2 Truth Be Told, 7 Glove Puppet (4th), 10 Sound Of Jura, 11 Light Veneer, 12 Grey's Ellergy (5th), 14 Garston La Gaffe, 25 Chiaroscuro, 50 Cheeky Fox (6th), General Lee, Highgate Mild, Rousing Reception (pu), Merry Marigold (pu), 100 Nothingbutpleasure (ur), October Winds (pu), Oyster River (pu), Ruffinswick (pu), Bangkok Boss (pu), Goose Green, Parsoness. 23 ran. 6l, 25l, 1½l, 7l, 3½l. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £7.40; £2.20, £7.80, £10.00. DF: (1st or 2nd with any other): £2.10. CSF: £185.32. Truth Be Told finished second but after an objection from the clerk of the scales was disqualified. Placepot: £117.60.

Sedgefield

Going: soft

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Topsoil (W Marston, 6-1); 2, Roscie (8-1); 2, Tap Dancing (12-1); 4, Forcello (12-1). Highfield Prince 7-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Far More, Wimborne, Rupert's Daughter. 1l, 5l. D Wintle. Tote: £5.10; £1.50, £2.70, £2.40, £2.50. DF: £20.10. CSF: £53.14. Tricast: £541.58. No bid.

2.45 (3m 2f 160yd hdle) 1, Secret Finale (R Marley, 10-1); 2, Wrekin Hill (16-1); 3, Arum Lily (4-1). Ballymore Park 2-1 fav. 10 ran. 8l, 4l. J Fort. Tote: £8.50; £1.50, £2.10, £1.90. DF: £90.90. CSF: £130.44. Tricast: £570.38.

3.15 (3m 4f ch) 1, What About Me (J O'Gorman, 11-4 fav); 2, Into The Mystic (14-1); 3, Bow Handy Man (3-1). 7 ran. 15l, nk. Mrs S Bramall.

3.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Laurie-O (P Niven, 9-2); 2, Choctaw (8-1); 3, Jody's Boy (5-1). Brockhill Boy 4-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Narans, Marlefield. 5l, 8l. Mrs G Reveley. Tote: £5.90; £2.00, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £5.90. CSF: £30.03. Tricast: £129.38.

4.15 (2m ch) 1, Macarthur (R Marley, 5-4 fav); 2, Wait You There (11-4); 3, Arpal Forever (33-1). 14 ran. 5l, 10l. M W Easterby. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £1.30, £3.00. DF: £3.50. CSF: £5.38.

4.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, No More Trix (G Bradley, 11-8 fav); 2, Paperwork Boy (5-2); 3, Velada II (3-1). 13 ran. 10l, 4l. T Tate. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £3.40. CSF: £4.98.
Placepot: £47.60.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): Seedman, Celtic Original, Beechwood Sailor, Instant Tan, Come On Gracie, Maurmex, Cois Na Habhne, Kaudas Country, Rix Woodcock, Dear Bot.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.40 (1m 2f) 1, Musigiak (A Munro, 5-1); 2, Blazing Fen (8-1); 3, Peggy Spare (33-1). Tracy's Prince 5-4 fav. 8 ran. 8l, 2½l. C Brittain. Tote: £3.80; £1.90, £1.70, £2.90. DF: £12.00. CSF: £38.89. After stewards' inquiry, result stood.

2.10 (1m 2f) 1, Kanooz (G Duffield, 3-1); 2, Weekday Cross (14-1); 3, Interring (5-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Miss Katanga. 3½l, 2l. M Prescott. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £11.30. DF: £29.40. CSF: £33.80.

2.40 (7f) 1, Able Jet (A Munro, 6-1); 2, Pesidanamich (7-2); 3, Dorotheum (13-2). Pacific Rim 10-11 fav. 7 ran. Nk, 4l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £8.00; £5.40, £2.10. DF: £11.80. CSF: £26.28.

3.10 (1m 5f) 1, Bursana (Teresa Spearing, 9-4 fav); 2, Pharoah's Guest (16-1); 3, Kovalevskia (11-4). 9 ran. NR: Cathos. 2½l, 3l. J Spearing. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £2.30, £1.70. DF: £205.10. CSF: £33.11. Tricast: £92.81.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, Monastery (B Crossley, 14-1); Dr Maccarter (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Lawnswood Junior (11-2). Russian Red 3-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. 1l, 6l. Mrs L Piggott. Tote: £8.60; £4.20, £1.80. DF: £22.80. CSF: £51.74.

4.10 (1m) 1, Amenable (Alex Greaves, 5-4 fav); 2, Sarum (5-2); 3, Orchard's Pet (14-1). 6 ran. ¾l, 6l. T Barron. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £3.80. CSF: £4.55. Tricast: £22.88. After stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.40 (5f) 1, Ever So Artistic (Debbie Biggs, 2-1 fav); 2, Sobering Thoughts (11-2); 3, Red River Boy (15-2). 9 ran. NR: Halvoya. Hd, nk. P Howling. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £1.10, £2.70. DF: £11.60. CSF: £12.91. Tricast: £62.38.
Placepot: £47.50.

● Magnus Pym was yesterday cut from 33-1 to 14-1 for Saturday's Imperial Cup at Sandown by Corals.

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BOXING

Lewis to prevail if he can live up to his own billing

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IT IS a pity that one of them must lose, Gary Mason or Lennox Lewis, two of the most likeable people you could wish to meet. They face each other at Wembley Arena tonight when, as world-ranked heavyweights, they should have avoided each other and gone their separate ways to Las Vegas or Atlantic City to pick up their million-dollar cheques for world title challenges.

But the Fates conspired against them. Mason was told by the British Boxing Board of Control to defend his British title against Lewis. "Gary did not want to give up his British title," Mickey Duff, Mason's manager, said. "He wanted to win the Lonsdale Belt outright."

Had Lewis's backers, the Levitt Group, not collapsed, the European heavyweight champion would not have had to reach out for the £138,000 offered by Duff.

Duff, who won the purse bid, with £276,000 to be shared equally by the boxers, believed Wembley would be a sell-out. But as late as Monday, National Promotions was holding its third hype conference to bring out the punters.

Out came the one-liners. Lewis: "Gary says I'm not seasoned but I'm going to cook his goose." Mason: "Losing doesn't matter because British fighters have got OBEs for getting beaten." You could hear the ballpoints scratching and the cameras spitting.

It would be a pity if punters remained unmoved and decided to watch the bout on television. It looks like being the best British heavyweight contest since Henry Cooper met Joe Bugner 20 years ago. It is an even-money contest outside the betting shop, which is a little galling for Mason, because he had thought he would be a runaway favourite. The bookmakers say the betting will equal the £250,000 laid out for the Eubank-Benn contest. Mason is 4-5, Lewis 10-11.

Even though Lewis has only 15 wins and no defeats compared to Mason's 35-0, the challenger's amateur pedigree cancels out the champion's experience. For instance, Bobby Wells stopped Mason as an amateur while Lewis knocked out Wells. Mason was also knocked out as an amateur by one Daniel T. Moul, who retired after a professional career of five wins and two defeats.

The styles of Mason and Lewis are perfectly matched to make champion and challenger believe he has the answer to the other man's strategy. According to Mason, Lewis will win the first half and he the second six rounds.

"Lennox hasn't been beyond eight rounds; I've done it," Mason said. "I'm quite prepared to concede he could win the first half, but the second half will belong to me, no question. He'll be tired after six and start worrying about nine, 10 and 11 and start panicking. I've done that struggle and am prepared to do that again. Lennox hasn't, especially against a strong fighter like me, who will be hitting him and hurting all the time."

Lewis said his jab would see him through. "I have speed, movement, brains and athletic ability to beat him."

If Lewis can live up to his words in the ring, he should come out a clear winner. Mason is ponderous and unhappy if the target keeps moving; Lewis, at 6ft 5in, has the height and athleticism to "stick and move".

Mason always has to set himself up after every barrage and has a habit of sending a kissergram by dipping the left shoulder before launching forth, which could give Lewis plenty of time to get out of the way.

Lewis's American trainer, John Davenport, says they have studied Mason on videofilm and Lewis will have the answer to Mason's predictable moves. "It's always the same pattern," Davenport said.

The biggest drawback for Mason could be his eyes. After his retina operation a year ago, he has appeared to screw up his eyes when taking blows to the face. Lewis's variety of punches could confuse him. Lewis, who stopped Riddick Bowe (these days touted as a title hope), to win the Olympic gold medal, is a natural boxer, and even if he has not come on as he should have, he should be too big and have too many punches for Mason.

Haugen could be stripped of title

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Greg Haugen, of the United States, could lose the World Boxing Organization (WBO) junior-welterweight title he took from Hector Camacho last month because of a positive drug test for marijuana.

Ed Levine, president of the WBO's championship committee, said that Haugen probably will be stripped of his title and the bout declared a no-contest because of a subsequent urine analysis that revealed traces of marijuana.

"Our rules are pretty set," Levine said. "If you take drugs before or after a fight, you get disqualified. That's what he's facing."

The Nevada State Athletic Commission announced on Friday that Haugen had tested positive following his split decision victory over Camacho on February 23.

While Levine said his organization was awaiting confirmation from the commission and would give Haugen a chance to defend himself, there was little room for flexibility.

"We're pretty strongly anti-drug," he said. "These guys go into the ring knowing they will be tested after the fight. We'll give him a chance to explain, but our rules are pretty clear."

Should Haugen be stripped of his title, Camacho, who had not lost a professional bout before meeting Haugen, would regain his title.

● CAGLIARI: Mauro Galvano will put his WBC light-heavyweight title at stake against Juan Gimenez, the Paraguayan challenger, here on May 1, itwas announced yesterday (AP reports). The contest, marking the first title defence by the Italian world champion, had been originally scheduled for Monte Carlo in March.

All-purpose cycling squad takes to the road

JOHN MANNING

The him and her of it: Cammish and Strong show off their livery and their sponsors' logos yesterday

Sexes unite in attack on records

By PETER BRYAN

THE world's first mixed professional team took to the saddle yesterday when Pauline Strong, holder of the Land's End to John o' Groats record, and the mountain bike rider, Caroline Alexander, received their licences as new members of the seven-strong Team Raleigh.

The set-up will be "a squad for all occasions" with time trial, road racing, cyclo-cross and mountain bike specialists among its number.

Alexander, at 23 the junior of the team, started racing only 12 months ago and her chance to turn professional has come at an opportune moment: she was recently made redundant as a draughtswoman at Barrow-in-Furness. She favours mountain bike racing and was a 1990 world championship competitor.

Pauline Strong, her senior by 11 years, is that by name and also by nature. Last July, six weeks after being knocked down and breaking her right collarbone, she set off from Land's End to ride the 847 miles to John 'o Groats. With little more than three cat naps of ten minutes — one after hallucinating — she pulled back on schedule to claim a new best time of two days 6hrs 49mins 45sec without walking a yard of the way.

Strong, three times a Tour de France rider, plans to cover the same demanding route again. "I have always believed that the record can come down to inside two days," she said yesterday. That will be her prime target this year, but first she will put in three months' preparation.

"Having a pro contract will allow me to take more time off from the family cycle shop in Gwent, but first I leave at the weekend for a fortnight's holiday — with my bike, of course — in Spain accompanied by my husband, Alan, who will manage my record rides."

Since her accident last year she has never ridden without a safety helmet.

The other Raleigh road record aspirant is Ian Cammish, already holder of the straight-out 100 miles, which he covered in 3hr 16min 56sec last November. It was the first time a rider had averaged more than 30mph over this distance. Cammish's season will start with attempts at 25 and 50 miles before he extends his mileage.

He sprang a surprise yesterday when he said that he would tackle the British one-hour track record and, possibly, the world figures at Leicester this June.

David Baker, winner of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series, Gary Coltman, a track champion, Paul Hinton, of New Zealand, and Barrie Clarke, who mixes cyclo-cross with road racing, complete the team.

BADMINTON

Chinese poised to upset Troke

By RICHARD EATON

HELEN Troke, the only home seeded singles player at this year's Yonex All-England championships, which start at Wembley next week, will need every bit of her remarkable revival of form if she is to reach her allotted quarter-final spot in the world's best-known tournament.

Troke, a former European and Commonwealth champion, performed superbly to reach two semi-finals and a quarter-final on her recent Far East tour, but yesterday learnt that she had been drawn against Hu Ning, of China, in the first round.

"She's not one we know, but you bet your life the Chinese don't bring anyone here if they aren't good," the England manager, Ciro Ciniglio, said.

If Troke survives her opening day obstacle she could face a second round match against Gil Young-Ah, the tough Korean, and a possible third round opponent in Christine Magnusson, the Swedish No. 1, who is an old rival.

All of this is symptomatic of the fact that this is one of the best entries in depth the 90-year-old event has had. Hardly any of the leading players is missing, with the women's singles likely to be a battle between Susi Susanti, the top seeded holder from Indonesia, and the Chinese challenger, Tang Jiuhong, the world No. 1.

The world's No. 1 man, Wu Wenkai, of China, is seeded only third in the men's singles behind his compatriot, Zhao Jianhua, the title-holder, and Ardy Wiranata, the world silver medal winner from Indonesia.

Gill Clark, England's heroine last year after reaching the women's doubles final with Gillian Gowers, could make a name for herself on the very first day this time. She and her new partner, Nettie Nielsen, the European doubles champion, have been drawn against the seeded Dutch pair, Eline Coene and Erica van de Heuvel, in the first round.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Yeo chips away at records

By JANE WYATT

SEVENTEEN British records were broken by 12 competitors during the Barclays Cerebral Palsy Sport national swimming championships at Burton-on-Trent at the weekend. Three of her own previous records fell to Clair Yeo, who won the 50 and 100 metres freestyle and 50 metres breaststroke in her category (Class 7).

Andrew Warnack (Class 3) had the most spectacular result of the championships when he reduced his own national record in the 100 metres breaststroke by nearly 30 seconds. Robin Surgeoner (Class 4) made a powerful comeback after a year out of competitive swimming by setting new times in the 50 metres breaststroke and 50 metres freestyle.

David Hebblethwaite (Class 7) cut 10 seconds from his previous best time in the 100 metres breaststroke, as well as taking the 50 metres.

Other outstanding performances came from Rebecca Hidson (Class 5), winner of seven gold medals at the world championships in Assen last year, who improved on her British record in the 100 metres backstroke by five seconds, and Adam Ricketts (Class 8), who took 12 seconds off his previous record in the 100 metres back stroke.

Ruth Totterdell (Class 8) improved on her time in the 50-metre backstroke by nine seconds, and Eric Green (Class 5) sliced nearly 12 seconds off his record in the 100 metres backstroke.

Most of the record breakers are almost certain of a place in the CP Squad for the Barcelona Paralympics, although final selection will take place during training sessions and at regional swimming galas over the next few months.

Cerebral Palsy Sport has linked with the UK Sport Association for People with a Mental Handicap in a project called Pro-Motion, which aims to improve sporting opportunities for people with multiple disabilities.

Pro-Motion has produced a resource guide which includes information on topics as varied as sailing and aromatherapy, as well as advice on support agencies and equipment. The result of 12 months' research, the guide is to be launched at a seminar in London next week.

BOWLS

Steele defeats Rugby

MAVIS Steele skipped her Egham team to the Pedigree Films English women's fours championship at Lawson Park, Bedford, yesterday (Gordon Allan writes). They defeated Rugby Thornfield 19-12.

Steele, along with Ann Green, Betty Crisp and Lucy Brownlie, was always in charge of events against Mary Entwistle, Nancy Orrell, June Coyles and Irene Rowan, leading from start to finish.

Croydon, with an all international rink, led Rugby 16-1 after ten ends in their semi-final but lost 17-25. Rugby took the mat up the green, their confidence grew end by end, and Rowan made some telling strikes when Croydon were holding shots.

The singles final was postponed until today because of the additional involvement of Eileen Vigor and Mary Price in the fours. It will be between Vigor, of Croydon, who beat Gloria Haney 21-20 and Price, the 1985 champion, who beat Sharon Rickman by the same score.

Vigor and Price both recovered from losing positions

Results, page 41

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	+ temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
Igls	0	30	fair	varied	closed	fine	5	16/2
Reasonable skiing at Axamer, still very warm								
Mayrhofen	5	70	fair	varied	closed	fair	13	3/3
Upper slopes good in the morning, heavy later								
Schladming	5	35	fair	heavy	worn	fine	10	16/2
Grooming giving fair skiing on upper slopes								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	60	250	fair	varied	worn	cloud	12	2/3
Good piste skiing on upper runs								
Flaine	40	200	good	varied	fair	cloud	10	28/2
Mild spring skiing conditions								
Isola	100	130	good	varied	good	fine	2	1/3
Good skiing on all runs								
La Plagne	120	240	good	varied	fair	cloud	6	3/3
Good skiing on higher slopes, long queues								
Megève	40	140	fair	heavy	slushy	cloud	8	3/3
Good skiing, but slush on lower slopes								
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	300	good	crust	slushy	cloud	3	1/3
Good piste skiing. No queues								
Courmayeur	70	200	good	heavy	-	snow	3	5/3
Cooler weather giving better skiing								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	65	70	fair	heavy	slushy	cloud	8	28/2
Most pistes good in the morning but slushy later								
Davos	25	145	fair	spring	worn	cloud	8	3/3
Interesting conditions on and off piste								
Gstaad	20	65	slushy	varied	worn	fine	8	28/2
Slushy skiing but good snow on the glacier								
Mürren	40	140	good	heavy	fair	fair	7	3/3
Good on upper slopes, lower slopes wearing								
St Moritz	30	50	good	varied	worn	cloud	3	28/2
Good skiing on upper slopes								
Villars	20	50	fair	heavy	closed	fine	12	28/2
Some good skiing, but bare patches								
Wengen	15	75	good	spring	slushy	cloud	10	3/3
Best skiing above 2,000m								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper.

NORWAY	L	U
Geilo	80	80
Hemsedal	80	70
Hovden	100	100
Lillehammer	110	110
Oslo	80	80
Voss	50	140

● Information supplied by the Norwegian National Tourist Office.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: upper, middle and lower, complete, new snow on firm base. Access roads open; most chairlifts and tows. Glenshee: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete, wet snow on firm base. Access roads open: chairlifts closed and tows open. Lecht: snow level, 1,000ft; vertical runs, 700ft. Runs: main complete. Access roads open; tows, all open. Aonach Mor: snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Access roads open; six tows open. Glencoe: snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Runs: upper and lower, complete. Access roads open; chairlifts and tows closed. Area closed until tomorrow.

Forecast: After recent high winds, tomorrow will see calmer conditions with winds starting light, freshening up by afternoon. Drizzle may affect some areas later on, and there will be periodic hill fog over all the areas. Cloud bases will be at 2,500ft, with some sunny spells. Freezing levels will be at the summits. Outlook: Staying mild but unsettled, with rain at times.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

RUGBY UNION

Clarke gets opportunity to lock horns with Shelford

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BEN Clarke, the Saracens No. 8, gets another opportunity to establish his place in the national pecking order when he plays for the Barbarians against the East Midlands in the annual Mobbs Memorial match at Northampton today.

Clarke has been playing box and cox with Tim Rodber of Northampton in the England B squad over the last year, but it will do his cause no harm if he can distinguish himself against Wayne Shelford.

Shelford, the former New Zealand No. 8 and captain now playing for Northampton, has taken over from the injured Mark Howe as captain of East Midlands, who field a team bearing almost no resemblance to the one which played in the county championship in December. The only survivors from that unhappy campaign are Andy Finnie, the Bedford stand-off half, and Andy Banes, the Towcestrians wing.

Both Clarke (against Spain) and Rodber (against Namibia and Ireland) have appeared in the England B team this season, and both are in the squad from which the team to play France B on March 15 will be chosen.

A reminder of the defeat against Ireland B last Friday will appear in the Barbarians team: Pat O'Hara, the Sunday's Well flanker, had an excellent B international and he is joined in the Barbarians side by James O'Riordan, the Constitution hooker.

O'Riordan is a late amendment after the withdrawal of David Fox (Llanelli), but judging by his display last Friday the Barbarians will be in no way weakened.

A crowd of 5,000 is expected at Franklin's Gardens, boosted by three coachloads of support from Sheffield for Bill Reichwald, their veteran stand-off half.

Reichwald, aged 39, has captained the Yorkshire club for 12 seasons and was the recipient last December of a special match to mark his contribution to the county's football.

It is a warming gesture by the Barbarians that he should now make his first appearance for the invitation club, and Reichwald will enjoy himself alongside international company including Mark Ring and David Evans, the Welsh midfield players.

East Midlands last won this fixture six years ago. Over the decade the Barbarians have averaged 36 points a match.

Of the 63 games played since 1921 the Barbarians have won 46 and will hope to sustain their high-scoring run, in the knowledge that Scottish Amicable, their sponsors, are contributing £50 towards youth rugby for every point they score in their centenary season.

EAST MIDLANDS: A Key (Leicester); B Ward (Northampton), C Glasswell (Bedford), S Glover (Bedford), A Banes (Towcestrians); A Finnie (Bedford), B Gabriel (Nottingham); V Pocklington (Northampton), D Frankland (Rugby), L Mansell (Bedford), P Alston (Northampton), D Newman (Northampton), M Upex (Bedford), P Pask (Northampton), W Shelford (Northampton).

BARBARIANS: K Murphy (Constitution and Ireland); A Harriman (Harlequins and England), M Ring (Cardiff and Wales), W Reichwald (Sheffield), A Emyr (Swansea and Wales); D Evans (Cardiff and Wales), C Bridges (Neath and Wales); J Fitzgerald (Young Munster and Ireland), J O'Riordan (Constitution), P Burnell (London Scottish and Scotland), A Carter (Newport and Wales), R Kimmins (Orrell), P Arnold (Swansea and Wales), P O'Hara (Sunday's Well and Ireland), B Clarke (Saracens).

Minshull wings back to centre

JASON Minshull, who flew home from New Zealand two weeks ago, plays his first match for Coventry for a year in the Courage Clubs Championship second division game against Plymouth Albion at Coundon Road on Saturday.

The Coventry-born centre is home for good after moving to New Zealand. He replaces Steve Chapman.

David Scott is brought in on the right wing for Rosslyn Park in their league visit to Saracens on Saturday as Simon Hunter is unavailable. Andy Holder and Mike Horrocks-Taylor return at stand-off and tight-head prop respectively.

● Wales is to consider recruiting New Zealand players. The WRU will make its decision tomorrow after one of the worst seasons in Welsh rugby history.

Last month, Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said: "I don't want to see Wales hand out caps of convenience." But now the union has to decide how Welsh a player has to be to play for Wales. It has had a request to consider if three New Zealanders who live, work and play in Wales can represent the national side.

They are Dale McIntosh (Pontypridd), Hemi Taylor (Newbridge) and Dean Oswald (Pontypool). Taylor has a Welsh wife and child and McIntosh has lived and worked in the valleys for two years. He has Scottish ancestry and is tipped to play for Scotland under-21s against their Welsh counterparts in April.

Jonathan Price, a spokesman for the WRU, said: "A decision on their eligibility will be announced Friday. We have no policy on the matter at the moment."

Last month, Jeremy Thompson, the Natal centre, whose mother was born in Narbeth, Dyfed, was ruled out of Welsh contention. He played for Welsh exiles in January, but plans to return to South Africa. Evans said he was not convinced of the player's Welsh qualifications.

● Matthew Silva, the Pontypool full back, is set to become the latest Welsh convert to rugby league by signing for Halifax today. Silva, who is 21 later this month, impressed in a trial match against Wigan A in an Alliance League game last week, and will switch codes for an undisclosed five-figure sum.

Capped by Wales youth and Wales under-20, he scored 306 points in his first season in senior rugby and played for Pontypool against the All Blacks. In 14 games for Pontypool this season he has scored 91 points.

Rosslyn Park sevens given an extra fillip

By DAVID HANDS

THE Rosslyn Park national schools sevens tournament will include this year a greater number of state schools, an encouraging sign for the game as a whole. With two state schools contesting the final of the inaugural *Daily Mail* under-18 cup this season, it is confirmation that the decline of rugby union in that sector may be coming to an end.

The tournament, to be played between March 25 and 28, is now in its 53rd year, and Peter Tanner, the chairman of the organising committee, said that a number of withdrawals had assisted the entry of several schools which had not previously taken part. They will be part of some 2,700 boys from 264 schools, who will play 522 games in the Roehampton area.

Shell UK announced yesterday a renewed sponsorship agreement for the sevens, worth £20,000 for each of the next three years, and the company's second three-year agreement.

"We look to the development of youth in the UK with our sponsorship money," Roy Reynolds, the managing director of Shell UK Oil, said.

● England colts, who open their international season against Italy at Cambridge on March 15, will have an additional fixture this season: they play Argentina Juniors at the Stoop Memorial ground on March 22. The Argentinians, visiting France for an international tournament, will also play Midland colts at Moseley on March 19.

ENGLAND COLTS: D Ketteringham (Northampton); J Sleightholme (Hull Ionians), P McCarthy (Northampton), S Thompson (Oxford OB), M White (Bristol); A Handley (De La Salle), M Olsen (Salisbury); P Ledson (Orrell), D Eveleigh (Crediton), R Merritt (Droitwich), D Bourne (Lichfield), M Wright (Loughborough University), M Howells (Wolverhampton), D McKinnon (Durham City), L Dallaglio (Wasps).

Campion beaten only once

SCHOOLS RUGBY by MICHAEL STEVENSON

CAMPION, Hornchurch, well rewarded with selection at representative level, have enjoyed a wonderful season. They were one point away from being unbeaten, as the only match they lost was 26-25 to Cooper's and Coburn, Upminster, in mid-season. They won 17 of their 19 matches, scoring 529 points and conceding 127. Their draw was against St Benedict's (9-9).

The four boys who played for London were: Phillip Friel, their reserve scrum half, Eugene Herlihy, centre or wing, Darren O'Leary, centre, and Anthony Diprose, No. 8, who also played for England against the Australians. O'Leary played for the south and south-west against the Australians and, as captain, scored 35 tries for the school, three short of the record.

Campion seem certain to mount an impressive challenge on the sevens circuit, which is gathering pace, and they have already won the National Westminster Bank tournament, recently held in London. Apart from the draw and the defeat, only one school came near to beating them, Colchester RGS, who were defeated 4-3. Campion's final match against St Edmund's, Ware, was won 16-12.

The strength in depth of rugby at RGS High Wycombe is illustrated by the fact that both their first XV and their under-15s beat St Paul's (14-0) and will now meet the winners of Camborne and Bristol GS in the quarter-finals.

Rugby may have experienced a moderate season as far as results were concerned but they turned out 14 teams, which is the most in the school's history. The first XV played 13, winning six and losing seven and scoring 143 points to 109 conceded. James Marshall, at full back, was outstanding. A number of matches in September were cancelled, because of hard grounds.

It would be hard to beat the record of Stonyhurst's prep school, St Mary's Hall, second XV. They have defeated four prep school first XVs in winning all their matches, have scored 357 points in the process and no one has managed a single point against them.

● The teams for the England 18 group final trial to be held at Nottingham HS on Saturday have been announced.

TEAM A: T Simpson (Silcoates); D O'Leary (Campion), A Maddock (Plymouth), G Edwards (Pocklington), A Rozak (Loughborough GS); W Greenwood (Sedbergh), M Dawson (RGS High Wycombe); D Crompton (Exeter College), M McCarthy (Leeds GS), R Fuller (King Edward VI Stratford), O Ibru (Eton), C Simpson (Cambridge College), S Mather (Arnold), P Corydon (Bishop Wordsworth), R Hill (Bishop Wordsworth).

TEAM B: M Beauchamp (Wellington College); J Abadom (Mayfield), N Ryan (Mount St Mary's), E O'Herlihy (Campion), M Singer (Wycliffe); P Burke (Epsom), G Becconsall (South Bristol Tech); S Brown (Radley), C Johnson (Bishop Vesey's), B Thompson (Durham), A Diprose (Campion), D Parr (Saltbridge), S Shaw (Godalming College), R Hutton (St Benedict's), E Rollitt (St Paul's).

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Champions of the Continent aim to play around with the toy-thing of Tapie

Milan put status as Europe's No. 1 ahead of £2m gate

From DAVID MILLER IN MILAN

SOMEONE complimented Ruud Gullit on Sunday, after AC Milan's 4-1 rout of Naples, saying he looked as fit as he had two years ago. "Nonsense," Gullit said. "Fitter." Milan go into tonight's European Cup quarter-final first-leg match against Marseilles with a confidence that borders on being dangerous to their own progress.

Never mind that Marco van Basten is suspended and Franco Baresi injured: Milan have so little respect for French football, not excluding Marseilles, the French league leaders by six points, that there has been talk that they will play as they would against Cagliari, who are bottom of the Italian league. Marseilles, the toy-thing of Bernard Tapie, an egocentric, upwardly mobile millionaire who, among other projects, bought out Adidas, could be in for a hiding: or a sensation.

Ten months ago, Milan's star was, relatively speaking, on the blink. They beat Benfica in the European Cup final without conviction and then watched their three Dutch stars play indifferently in the premature World Cup demise of the Netherlands against West Germany in their own San Siro stadium. Milan were less than happy in their opening match this season in the defence of their title against Bruges.

Since then, some of the magic has returned to Europe's best team. Gullit is athletically back to his best, the knee seemingly mended, content to forgo the bright lights and happily sitting at home in his slippers awaiting a baby with his third wife.

Donadoni and the veteran Ancelotti in midfield are in superb form – ask Naples – Milan having become in December the first European team in 25 years to retain the world club cup, when they defeated Olimpia of Paraguay in Tokyo. On Sunday, though without Baresi, there were signs of the team which two seasons ago thrillingly defeated first Real Madrid, who are managed by Leo Beenhakker, and, in the final, Steaua Bucharest.

Tapie, who is having difficulty building a dream team to match the £20 million empire of his rival millionaire, Silvio Berlusconi, was yesterday getting himself dragged into the argument over the dropping of the French international forward, Cantona. Tapie, in the same breath, defended the decision by Raymond Goetals – whom he hired to replace Franz Beckenbauer – and then said it was the manager's job to be able to persuade a player to sit on the bench.

Last Saturday, when Marseilles defeated Monaco 1-0, Cantona and Tigana had refused to take a place on the bench.

The best news for Marseilles is that Dragan Stojkovic, the quicksilver Yugoslav midfield player who was such a joy at times in the World Cup, will be on the bench after missing four months of this season with a knee injury. Stojkovic played for the reserves at the weekend and came through unharmed.

Goetals is trying to introduce more discipline into the Marseilles team by limiting the attacking excursions of his defenders, Mozer, of Brazil, and Bowley. Not many people expect Marseilles' defence to have much time for playing in their opponents' half of the field tonight.

The absence of Baresi is the most worrying of Milan's problems, for he conditions the way in which the team plays. Tonight he will be replaced by Costa Curta, partnered in the centre of defence by Galli, with Tassotti and Maldini at full back. Papin, the centre forward for France and the leading scorer in the league with 19 goals, will have to be at his most elusive to get much change at the San Siro.

More than 80,000 tickets have been sold for the match, generating more than £2 million for Milan. Money, however, is not their concern so much as the perpetuation of their status as No. 1 in Europe.

AC MILAN (probable): A Pazzagli; M Tassotti, F Galli, A Costacurta, P Maldini, C Ancelotti, F Rijkaard, R Donadoni, D Massaro, R Gullit, A Evani.

MARSEILLES (probable): P Olmeta; M Amoros, B Boli, C Mozer, B Casoni, B Germain, B Pardo, P Vercruysse, A Pele, C Waddle, J-P Papin.

Back to his best: Gullit, one of the brightest lights in Milan, is fitter than ever

Jemson aims to retain his touch

By CHRIS MOORE

NOTTINGHAM Forest, who meet Norwich City at Carrow Road on Saturday in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup, have injury doubts over Nigel Clough and Terry Wilson, though both are expected to be fit in time.

Nigel Jemson, who scored all Forest's goals in their 3-1 victory over Southampton on Monday, admitted yesterday he had not been sure of playing against Southampton. He had returned to the Forest attack at Luton on Saturday after being out since Boxing Day with a hamstring injury.

"There's fierce competition for places at the moment and I was worried I might not get back in the team," he said. "Now it's up to me to make sure I stay there and that means keeping the goals coming."

His manager, Brian Clough, said of Jemson's treble: "I was delighted for the lad. As a goalscorer myself I am pleased for anyone who can stick the ball in the net. He showed that he has benefited from a few weeks away from it all. He looked fresh, enthusiastic and full of himself, but he is always the sort of lad who looks full of himself when others are on the floor.

"The break has done him no harm at all. He's got colour in his cheeks and it's a lesson to all of us that we feel better for having a rest."

Forest's neighbours, Notts County, who meet Tottenham in Sunday's televised quarter-final, stressed yesterday that promotion back into the First Division remains a greater priority to further cup progress.

County have already twice broken their receipts record this season with gate takings of £70,000 for their fourth round tie against Oldham Athletic, and £120,000 for the visit of Manchester City in the fifth round.

They will collect a further £60,000 TV fee this weekend, plus 45 per cent of the gate at White Hart Lane. But they remain more than £2 million in debt and, with average attendances of 7,500, only 1,500 up on last season, are still losing money on a weekly basis.

In addition, they face a bill of around £9 million to implement the ground improvements required to comply with the Taylor Report.

● Birmingham City are hoping to re-sign former forward, Wayne Clarke, from Manchester City. "I am surplus to requirements at Maine Road and would be very interested in going back to Birmingham," Clarke said.

REVISED QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Arsenal v Cambridge United; Norwich City v Nottingham Forest; Tottenham Hotspur v Notts County; West Ham United v Everton. Matches to be played between March 9 and 11.

Aldershot change chairman

ALDERSHOT had a fresh face in the chairman's office yesterday. Mike Gill-Anderson, a millionaire businessman and owner of companies involved in communications and leisure, who is aged 38 and from Essex, has taken over from Colin Hancock (Louise Taylor writes).

The fourth division club almost went out of existence last summer, but were rescued at the eleventh hour in the High Court by Spencer Trethewy. However the teenage property developer subsequently failed to live up to his financial promises, and it was left to Hancock to invest a huge financial commitment in the club.

Hancock, who remains a director and intends to eventually become managing director at the Recreation Ground, cited the need for a rest as precipitating his decision to step down.

Gill-Anderson said: "I was touched by Aldershot's struggle to stay alive and vowed then to help in anyway I could. I have been a supporter of football for years."

Yugoslav authorities announced yesterday that their European championship qualifying game against Northern Ireland on March 27 would be in Belgrade rather than Skopje.

Northampton Town, of the fourth division, have been put up for sale by the club chairman.

Spartak are threatening to put di Stefano's job on ice

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE memory of John Toshack's fate at the Bernabeu Stadium after his European Cup failures may be enough to make Alfredo di Stefano shudder at the prospect of Real Madrid falling again in Europe's premier club competition.

It was not enough that Toshack carried on and guided the club to its sixth successive Spanish championship. He still lost his job as coach. Now, with Madrid almost certain to relinquish their league title to Barcelona, di Stefano does not even have the compensation of a domestic honour going for him. That possibility disappeared with last week's Spanish Cup elimination by Atlético Madrid.

Although without the injured Hugo Sanchez, Real's comfort for this round, at least, is that they have avoided their conquerors of the past two seasons, AC Milan, who went on to capture the trophy each time. It is also to their advantage that they visit a Spartak Moscow team still four days away from starting their season. On their own treacherous pitch the hosts may provide a tricky obstacle.

After attempts to transfer the game to western Europe were abandoned, huge efforts, costing approximately £80,000, were made to get the the 100,000 capacity Luzhniki stadium ready in time. Around 5,000 volunteers removed more than 20,000 cubic metres of snow from the pitch and the stands.

The playing surface was covered with a synthetic carpet, but with local forecasts suggesting snow and sub-zero temperatures, Madrid may feel further than ever away from home. The hostile elements will hardly favour them even if the Spartak coach, Oleg Romantsev, does contend: "Everything will depend more on the weather than on the players."

Like Real, Bayern Munich went out to Milan last year, two rounds later in the semi-finals. Like Real, too, the German champions may be in a defeatist mood after their curious 1-0 home reverse by St Pauli at the weekend. That loss pushed Bayern down to second place, which is precisely where their visitors, tonight, Porto, find themselves in the Portuguese League, albeit in better spirits after a 5-0 humbling of Uniao Madeira at the weekend.

Red Star Belgrade were other European Cup hosts to endure the worst kind of preparation. A shock 2-1 home defeat by Proleter Zrenjanin, only their third all season, will have done the confidence of the Yugoslav league leaders no good for their tie with Dynamo Dresden. "If they play like this, we can kiss goodbye our prospects in the Champions' Cup," the Red Star coach, Ljupko Petrovic, said.

The last East German club to participate in the competition after Germany's unification, Dresden do not know what to expect after sending two officials to watch their opponents at the weekend. "We know this was not the real Red Star," Bernd Kiesling, the manager, said. "We don't know if they played badly deliberately to fool us, or they really had a bad day."

Another Yugoslav aiming for a semi-final place is Vujadin Boskov, the coach of the European Cup Winners' Cup holders, Sampdoria, who can do little wrong in knockout competitions these days. The Genoa club have no fears of the Polish opponents, Legia Warsaw.

Hopes of Yugoslav fulfillment are maintained in Belgium by Nebosja Malbasa, the Liège forward, after the 4-2 win over Standard Liège. "We will be even better against Juventus," he promised. "And perhaps they are not at their best."

Unlike Real Madrid's journey to the Soviet Union, Barcelona's expedition to Dynamo Kiev in the Cup Winners' Cup might be less fraught with danger. Even without their coach, Johan Cruyff, who is recovering from heart surgery, Barcelona followed up a 6-0 cup devastation of the Las Palmas, with a 1-0 win against Tenerife in the league.

SPORTS COUNCIL

Governing body plans transfer from the capital

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Sports Council is to move its national administration out of London, either to York or Nottingham. However, the government-financed quango will retain its strategic headquarters, including offices for the chairman and members, in the capital.

The proposed move north, which will affect about 200 people, is dependent on the government agreeing to meet the cost. It is unlikely to take place before 1994.

Peter Yarranton, the chairman of the council, said yesterday that the main reason for the move was not financial, but rather the problems of recruiting and retaining high quality staff in the capital. Many qualified people in the regional offices were reluctant to move to London because of the cost of living in the southeast. "We have had difficulty in filling holes," he said.

There is a possibility that the council will move into Holme Pierrepont, the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham, which is the subject of a development study with the county council. Acquiring a freehold property or one on a long lease would depend on government money.

The proposed move of the Sports Council follows that of many other national governing bodies that have sensibly bought rather than rented property outside London. There will still be a few people left in central London, including the international affairs unit, the press office and the national children's play and recreation unit.

The Sports Council today will continue its long-running talks with Crystal Palace Football Club about the possibility of the first division club moving to the Sports Council's centre from their present premises at Selhurst Park, about a mile away. The Sports Council is reluctant to spend money on refurbishing the centre when its future is uncertain.

Bromley council inherited the freehold of the site from the Greater London Council and the Sports Council has been given a lease of £1 per year until 2004. The Sports Council wants the reassurance that Bromley will grant a long lease from 2004 before it refurbishes the site. Bromley has suggested an annual rent of £300,000.

Ron Noades, the chairman of Crystal Palace, wants to see the stadium enlarged to hold at least 50,000 people but Bromley council has both blocked the application for a new carpark and been reluctant to improve road access to the site.

YACHTING

Chasing group suffer mishaps

From BARRY PICKTHALL IN PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

AS ALAIN Gautier crept towards Punta del Este last night to secure the overall lead in the BOC single-handed round the world race, strong winds blasting Cape Horn continued to cause problems for the chasing yachts.

Gautier's fellow Frenchman, Christophe Auguin, believed to be in second place, 280 miles astern, reported that he was knocked flat during the passing of a cold front when winds suddenly accelerated from 10 to 40 knots. His 60ft boat, Groupe Sceta, an almost identical design to Gautier's 19ft wide, Generali Concorde, luckily did not sustain any damage.

Jack Boye, the American sailing the class 2 entry, Project City Kids, was less fortunate. Rounding Cape Horn in darkness early yesterday within a mile of his Australian rival, Don McIntyre, he too was bowled over in a 70 knot squall. "It's a shambles below" he reported after the knockdown.

Josh Hall, the Ipswich sailor who suffered a broken boom on Sunday when a wave crashed over his 50ft yacht, reported last night that he was heading under escort with a Chilean naval vessel for a safe anchorage 50 miles west of Cape Horn to effect repairs.

John Martin, rescued from his sinking yacht two weeks ago by his fellow South African, Bertie Reed, reached Punta Arenas yesterday after being taken off when the two sailors made a rendevous with the Chilean Navy 17 miles west of the Horn on Tuesday.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 10.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este, Uruguay): Class 1: 1, Generali Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 122 miles; 2, Groupe Sceta (C Auguin, Fr), 400 (estimate); 3, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 410; 4, Duracell, M Plant, US), 470; 5, Grinaker (B Reed, SA), 806; 6, Credit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr), 826; 7, Jarkan (K Girtles, Aus), 837; 8, Alba Regia (N Fa, Hun), 851; 9, BBV Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 858; 10, Ecureuil PC (I Autissier, Fr), 883. Class 2: 1, Servant (Y Dupasquier, Fr), 909; 2, Buttercup (D McIntyre, Aus), 1,378; 3, Project City Kids (J Boye, US), 1,379; 4, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 1,516; 5, Sebago (H Roth, US), 3,669. Corinthian class: 1, Volcano (P Theckaberry, US), 1,804; 2, Global Exposure (R Davis, GB), 2,138; 3, Shuttendohji (M Saito, Japan), 2,410.

SQUASH RACKETS

Colets win sets up grand final

BROOKS Colets, the Squash Rackets Association women's superleague champions, will finish second at best this season, but ensured that their successors will have to fight all the way to the line with a comprehensive victory over Reebok Nottingham at Thames Ditton (Colin McQuillan writes). Michelle Martin said beat Lisa Opie, Alison Cumings defeated Sharon Brady, and Cassandra Jackman beat Jane Martin.

Nottingham will go to Caversham for next week's final fixture against the Yellow Pages squad for the championship.

David Last, the Colets director, said: "We must bring the league up to at least six squads next season and I would like to see the teams expanded to four to bring into play some of the many good young British players coming through. Also we must schedule the competition into a continuous programme, probably after Christmas, to allow all the foreign players to include the league in their European season."

RESULTS: Brooks Colets 3, Reebok Nottingham 0 (M Martin bt L Opie 9-3, 4-9, 9-5, 9-4, A Cumings bt S Brady 3-9, 9-2, 9-8, 4-9, 9-6, C Jackman bt J Martin 7-9, 9-2, 9-3, 10-8); Lee-on-Solent 0, IMS Courtlands 3 (L Soutter lost to L Irving 7-9, 0-9, 9-7, 3-9; L Charman lost to F Geaves 1-9, 5-9, 1-9; F Roberts lost to R Strauss 10-9, 9-3, 3-9, 7-9, 7-9). Leading positions: 1, Caversham 34, Nottingham 31, Colets 26, Courtlands 11, Lee-on-Solent 6.

MOTOR SPORT

Sainz and Alen take rally lead

LISBON (AP) – Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the world champion, and Markku Alen, of Finland, raced through mud and rain to share the lead after the opening stage yesterday in the five-day 1991 Portuguese Port Wine Rally.

Sainz, driving a Toyota Celica GT4, tackled the 2.3-kilometer (1.4-mile) track in the Jamor Valley parkland in typically aggressive style. He finished in a record 1min 42sec.

The veteran Alen, five times winner of the Portuguese rally, followed up in his Subaru Legacy to join Sainz in knocking five seconds from sthe track record set last year by Massimo Biasion, of Italy.

Behind them Biasion led a trio of drivers from the Italian manufacturer, Lancia. He was just one second behind the leaders, and was joined on 1min 43sec, by Didier Auriol, of France, and Juhu Kankkunen, of Finland.

Lancia is trying capture its fifth consecutive Portuguese rally.

LEADING POSITIONS (after first special stage): 1, C Sainz, Sp, (Toyota Celica GT4), and M Alen, Fin, (Subaru Legacy), both 1min 42sec; 3, M Biasion, It, (Lancia Delta Integrale), J Kankkunen, Fin, (Lancia Delta Integrale), D Auriol, Fr (Lancia Delta Integrale), all 1.43; 6, M Duez, Bel, (Toyota Celica GT4), 1.45; 7, H Mikkola, Fin, (Mazda 323 4WD), 1.46; 8, F Delecour, Fr, (Ford Sierra Cosworth), A Fiorio, It, (Ford Sierra Cosworth), A Schwarz, Ger, (Toyota Celica GT4), all 1.47.

IN BRIEF

Ice judges penalised

Two senior figure skating judges, Irina Absaliamova, of the Soviet Union, and Cia Bordogna, of Italy, have been suspended for two years for misconduct at an international championship last year.

They have been penalised for excessive lobbying on behalf of skaters from their countries.

SWIMMING: Optrex are to sponsor two events at the Ponds Forge pool complex in Sheffield: the European diving cup on March 23-24 and the world cup series a week later.

WORLD CUP TEAM: Men: J Arbon (Essex Cormorants); A Byford (Highgate), R Morgan (Barnet Copthall), G Morris (Huddersfield Borough), T Ali (Southend). Women: N Bishop (Oldham), T Miles (Highgate), A Roffey (Leeds Esprit), L Ward (Highgate), H Allen (RTW Monson).

ATHLETICS: Vicky Vaughan, an Oxford Blue from Dundee, will lead Britain in the Eikiden women's world relay championship over the marathon distance in Peking on March 17.

TEAM: S-A Cox (Parkside), L Hollick (Leicester), N Morris (Essex Ladies), S Parker (Sale), V Vaughan (Dundee) and B Walker (Western Isle of Man).

BASKETBALL: An American coach is being sought by the Basketball Association of Wales before the Commonwealth championships in July.

YACHTING: Requests that America's Cup challengers be allowed to change yachts between the qualifying rounds and the final match were refused by the newly-formed trustee committee in San Diego yesterday.

VOLLEYBALL: The international federation has rejected a bid to introduce free blocking, which would have enabled back-court players to block, after a study by its rules of the game commission.

TENNIS: Pete Sampras, the US Open champion, and John McEnroe will head the draw for the $225,000 Direct Line Manchester Open from June 17 to 22.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston Celtics 126, Indiana Pacers 101; Phoenix Suns 128, Charlotte Hornets 93; Utah Jazz 108, Orlando Magic 88; Dallas Mavericks 102, New Jersey Nets 100; Seattle SuperSonics 106, Golden State Warriors 99.

BOWLS

BEDFORD: Pedigree Petfoods English women's national championships: Singles: First round: D Mascot (Cheshunt) bt S Hazell (Mote Park, Maidstone), 21-19; V Wade (Kingsthorpe) bt S Overton (Cotswold), 21-12; S Rickman (King George, Tolworth) bt S Vincent (Teignbridge), 21-20. Fours: Quarter-finals: Rugby Thornfield 20, Preston, Brighton 14; Egham 25, Thornaby 8; Croydon 21, Boston 13; Desborough, Maidenhead 18, Yeovil 18. Semi-finals: Rugby bt Croydon, 25-17; Egham bt Desborough Maidenhead, 18-16. Singles quarter-finals: G Haney (Spalding) bt J Coulson (York), 21-16; S Rickman (King George, Tolworth) bt V Wade (Kingsthorpe), 21-13; E Vigor (Croydon) bt M Coles (Sole Bay), 21-13; M Price (Desborough, Maidenhead) bt D Mascot (Cheshunt), 21-17.

HOCKEY

UAU WOMEN'S CUP: Final: Sheffield 9, Loughborough 0.
SCHOOLS MATCH: The Leys 5, Aldenham 1.

YACHTING

GENOA, Italy: Olympic classes regatta: Finn 08: 1, Vaccari (It); 2, Khoperský (USSR); 3, Loof (Swe); 4, Tokovoi (USSR); 5, Macmillan (GB). Europe: 1, Bogatec (It); 2, Landi (It); 3, Lyttle (Rep Eire); 4, Calli Garis (It); 5, Dekleva (Yug). Richard Ellis-RYA Olympic sailing places: 6, S Robertson; 7, K Hedgecock; 8, A Lucas. 470 Men: 1, Ivaldi (It); 2, Chiari (It); 3, Montefusco (It); 4, Tonists (USSR); 5, Noe (It). Richard Ellis-RYA Olympic sailing places: 10, R Boardman; 18, P Bedder; 21, S Cockerill. Flying Dutchman: 1, Doreste (Sp); 2, Sommariva (It); 3, Santella (It); 4, Cipriani (It); 5, Destremau (Fr). Richard Ellis RYA-Olympic sailing places: 10, Smaed; 13, W Henderson; 16, M Lennon. Star: 1, Fravezzi (It); 2, Greenwood (GB); 3, Semeraro (It); 4, Sadeff (It); 5, Ferrarese (It). Soling: 1, Rodolfi (It); 2, Pichugin (USSR); 3, Arrivabene (It); 4, Pyatt (GB); 5, Tab (GB). Richard Ellis-RYA Olympic sailing places: 10, A Beadsworth. Tornado: 1, Hagara (Austria); 2, Konovalov (USSR); 3, Primak (USSR); 4, Ducati (It); 5, Williams (GB). Richard Ellis-RYA Olympic sailing places: 10, R Portway. 470 Women: 1, Bessakina (USSR); 2, Gaudino (It); 3, Bacchega (It); 4, Raggatt (GB); 5, Friends (It).

RUGBY UNION

ULSTER BANK SCHOOLS CUP: Semi-final: Methodist, Belfast 14, Belfast Royal Academy 8 (at Ravenhill).

FOOTBALL

ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CUP: Northern area semi-final: Postponed: Barnsley v Everton (waterlogged pitch).
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midlands division: Postponed: Crawley v Dorchester.
OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Arsenal 1, Chelsea 2; QPR 0, Tottenham 1.
Late results on Monday
FA CUP: Fifth round replay: Nottingham Forest 3, Southampton 1 (Forest away to Norwich City).
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 1, Dartford 1. Midland division: Willenhall 0, Hednesford 2.
VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham 0, Bognor Regis 2. First division: Harlow 0, Dorking 3. Second division north: Purfleet 3, Edgware 0.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Yeovil v Bridport. Les Phillips Cup: Mangotsfield 4, Bristol Manor Farm 0.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Horwich v Droylsden. Challenge Shield: Hyde 1, Leek 2.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 1, Blackburn 0. Postponed: Sunderland v Newcastle.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Adidas county championship: Oxfordshire 2, Dorset 1. Barclays Under-19 Cup: Third round: St Mary's College, Cleveland 1, Cuthbert's, Northumberland 0.

GOLF

MIAMI: Men's tournament: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 276: R Mediate, 66, 70, 68, 72 (won at first hole of sudden-death play-off); C Strange, 69, 68, 72, 67. 277: A Bean, 66, 68, 67, 74; R Cochran, 69, 67, 68, 73. 279: J Nicklaus, 71, 63, 75, 70; D Love III, 71, 68, 68, 72. 280: M Calcavecchia, 68, 70, 69, 73. 281: L Wadkins, 71, 67, 70, 73. 282: W Levi, 67, 70, 71, 74.
SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, N Faldo (GB), 18.23pts; 2, G Norman (Aus), 17.66; 3, J-M Olazabal (Sp), 17.07; 4, I Woosnam (GB), 16.56; 5, P Stewart (US), 12.45; 6, P Azinger (US), 11.06; 7, T Kite (US), 10.57; 8, M McNulty (Zim), 10.28; 9, S Ballesteros (Sp), 10.01; 10, C Strange (US), 9.96.

HANG GLIDING

GOVERNADOR VALADARES, Brazil: World championships: Final rounds: Task 1: 1, L Tudor (US), 1,000pts; 2, R Whittall (GB), 988; 3, T Suchanck (Cz), 968. Other British placings: 8, P Harvey, 858; 13, J Pendry, 826. Final rounds: Task 2: 1, T Suchanck (Cz), 1000pts; 2, M Newland (Aus), 980; 3, G Thevenot (Fr), 975. British placings: 6, Pendry, 961; 9, Harvey, 906. Overall: 1, Suchanck, 4,819; 2, P Lopes (Br), 4,533; 3, T Bender (Ger), 4,357. British placings: 6, Pendry, 4288; 8, Harvey, 4,094; 10, B Goldsmith, 4,017; 22, Whittall, 3,707; 35, R Hamilton, 3,483; 43, J Flynn, 3,273. Teams: 1, Brazil, 16,743; 2, Britain, 16,080; 3, Australia, 15,940.

TENNIS

PALM SPRINGS: Women's tournament: Final: M Navratilova (US) bt M Seles (Yug), 6-2, 7-6.
COPENHAGEN: Men's tournament: First round: C-U Steeb (Ger) bt H Holm (Swe), 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; L Jonsson (Swe) bt L Herrera (Mex), 6-1, 6-0; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt P Henriksson (Swe), 6-2, 7-5; J F Altur (Sp) bt A Olhovsky (USSR), 7-6, 2-6, 6-4; M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Woehrmann (Ger), 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; A Chesnokov (USSR) bt P Baur (Ger), 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; F Fetterlein (Den) bt E Masso (Bel), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; J Gunnarsson (Swe) bt P Kuhnen (Ger), 6-3, 6-2; K Novacek (Czech) bt T Engvist (Swe), 6-2, 3-6, 6-4; C Bergstroem (Swe) bt J Eltingh (Neth), 6-3, 7-5; J Hlasek (Switz) bt M Zoecke (Ger), 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; A Jarryd (Swe) bt B Wuyts (Bel), 6-3, 6-2.
BOCA RATON: Women's tournament: First round: A Huber (Ger) bt N Herreman (Fr), 6-2, 6-4; L Ferrando (It) bt E Pampoulova (Bul) 6-0, 4-6, 6-2; C Porwik (Ger) bt A Dechaume (Fr), 2-6, 7-5, 6-4; N Medvedeva (USSR) bt T Whitlinger (US), 6-3, 7-5; B Fulco (Arg) bt S Cecchini (It), 6-1, 6-0; C Suire (Fr) bt K Rinaldi (US), 7-5, 7-6; E DeLone (US) bt B Bittner (Ger), 3-6, 6-1, 7-6; A Coetzer (SA) bt I Demongeot (Fr), 6-1, 3-0, ret; L Gildemeister (Peru) bt K Habsudova (Cz), 6-4, 6-3; M McGrath (US) bt M L Daniels (US), 6-2, 6-0; M Werdel (US) bt A Smith (US), 7-5, 6-4; H Cioffi (US) bt E Brioukhovets (USSR), 6-1, 6-0; L Bonder-Kreiss (US) bt S Stafford (US), 6-4, 6-0; C Dahlman (Sweden) bt S Smith (GB), 6-0, 6-0; R Rajchrtova (Cz) bt M Jackson (US), 6-2, 7-6; L Savchenko (USSR) bt B Schultz (Neth), 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.
INDIAN WELLS, California: Champions Cup: First round: M Chang (US) bt M Filippini (Uru), 6-1, 6-1; A Cherkasov (USSR) bt P Korda (Cz), 7-5, 6-1; M Stich (Ger) bt T Mayotte (US), 6-1, 6-3; M Rosset (Switz) bt P Lundgren (Swe), 7-6, 6-4; J Courier (US) bt G Raoux (Fr), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; D Cahill (Aus) bt V Paloheimo (Fin), 6-3, 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt M Vajda (Cz), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3; M Jaite (Arg) bt D Wheaton (US), 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: Malaysian international championship: Men's Singles: First round: S Guy (NZ) bt I Cappelloni (It), 2-6, 6-2, 6-1; P Bing (China) bt P Dogger (Neth), 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; R Rasheed (Aus) bt J Winnink (Neth), 6-4, 6-2; S Han-cheol (S Korea) bt J Willem Lodder (Neth), 6-4, 6-2; P Koscielski (US) bt V Van Gelderen (Neth), 6-4, 6-3; T Thein (Ger) bt G Dzelde (USSR), 6-1, 6-3; Suharyadi (Indo) bt R Benson (US), 6-2, 6-4; M Christensen (Den) bt B Madsen (US), 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

LACROSSE

LUTON: National schoolgirls tournament: Bossenden Cup (seniors): Semi-finals: St Swithun's (Winchester) 3, Godolphin (Salisbury) 0; St George's (Edinburgh) 4, Howells (Llandaff) 0. Final: St Georges 2, St Swithun's 2. Len Smith Cup (juniors): Semi-finals: Lady Eleanor Holles 3, Norwich High 2; Godolphin 1, St Swithuns 3. Final: Lady Eleanor Holles 0, St Swithuns 0.

SHOOTING

COALINGA, California: State long-range rifle championships: Individual: 1, E St John (US) 577.16. British placing: Bronze medal: M Brown (Scot), 557 11. Palma individual target rifle: 1, G Tierney (US), 422 (after tie). British placing: 2, J Carmichael (Eng), 422. Four man teams event: 1, Hardholders Gold, (US) 766. British scores: England A, 727; Spoon Club, 718; England B, 707.

SQUASH RACKETS

SRA WOMEN'S SUPERLEAGUE: Brooks Colets 3, Reebok Nottingham 0 (Brooks names first): M Martin bt L Opie, 9-3, 4-9, 9-5, 9-4; A Cumings bt S Brady, 3-9, 9-2, 9-8, 4-9, 9-6, C Jackman bt J Martin, 7-9, 9-2, 9-3, 10-8. Lee on Solent 0, IMS Courtlands 3 (Lee names first): L Soutter lost to L Irving, 7-9, 0-9, 9-7, 3-9; L Charman lost to F Geaves, 1-9, 5-9, 1-9. F Roberts lost to R Strauss, 10-9, 9-3, 3-9, 7-9, 7-9. League positions: 1, Yellow Pages Caversham, 34pts; 2, Reebok Nottingham, 31; 3, Brooks Colets, 26; 4, IMS Courtlands, 11; 5, Lee on Solent, 6.

STUDENT SPORT

SAPPORO: World Student Winter Games: Speed skating: Women's 1,000m: S Hwason (N Korea), 1min 24.63sec. Men's 1,000m: T Kurowa (Japan), 1:16.25. Nordic combined (ski jump, cross country): K Ogiwara (Japan), 190.9 points, 38min 13.9sec. Cross-country combined (total, classical, free): K Nagahama (Japan), 1:20:07.7, 42:14, 37:53.7. Ice dancing: Pairs (after compulsory and original dances): 1, I Melnichenko and G Kaskov (USSR), 1.0; 2, I Romanova and I Yaroshenko (USSR), 2.0; 3, I Strondalova and M Brzy (Cz) 3.0. Figure skating: Men: 1, M Chack (US), 1.5; 2, J Sung-il (S Korea), 4.0; 3, O Tataourov (USSR), 4.6.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 6, Philadelphia Flyers 2; Calgary Flames 3, Montreal Canadiens 2 (OT).

RUGBY FIVES

CLUB MATCH: Jesters 184, Winchester 144.
WOOD CUP: Executioners Club 128, Old Stundolians 79.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Felsted 116, Tonbridge 94; Eastbourne 124, Christ's Hospital 75.

Rally revived

The Liège-Rome-Liège car rally is being revived. More than 80 cars dating from 1931 to 1964 have already entered the 2,300-mile race, to be run from September 27 to October 6.

SWIMMING

Federations told to press 1,500m case

By CRAIG LORD

THE World Cup committee would consider changing its system of scoring for distance freestylers if enough national federations complained about the disadvantage facing 1,500 metre specialists, according to the committee's chairman.

The case of Ian Wilson, who was fourth in the 1,500 metres at the world championships last month, highlights the problem. The Sunderland swimmer will find it virtually impossible to win the World Cup distance freestyle category because only three of the seven competitions host 1,500 metre races.

With the best points scored at four of the venues accumulated for a final score, Wilson's performance in a 400- or 800-metre race, the other distances counting, will decide his fate.

Wilson said: "Obviously my 400 and even 800 are much weaker than the 1,500, so I stand much less chance of doing well overall than a 400 swimmer. They should have a 1,500 at all meets."

Trevor Tiffany, the World Cup chairman from Canada, said national federations must bring the matter up so that his committee could oblige venues to include a 1,500 metre race.

He said: "I appreciate the unfairness here. Its hard to get so much into a two-day programme, but if countries feel they want a 1,500 at more venues they must say so."

Tiffany was annoyed that some European countries were complaining about their swimmers having to attend one "off continent" venue. "This is there to be fair to the Japanese, Australians and so on, who have always to travel vast distances," he said.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners Cup
Quarter-final, first leg
Manchester Utd v Montpellier (8.0).

GM Vauxhall Conference
Stafford v Kidderminster

B and Q Scottish League
Premier division
Dunfermline v Celtic
Hearts v St Johnstone

First division
Raith v Meadowbank

Second division
Cowdenbeath v Alloa
Queen of South v East Fife

PREMIER INTER-LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Burton v Witton.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: First division: Radcliffe Borough v Emley. First division cup: Lancaster City v Harrogate.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Gloucester. Midland division: Alvechurch v Stroud; Dudley v King's Lynn. Southern division: Burnham v Hastings; Canterbury City v Margate; Salisbury v Andover.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry v Rotherham (7.0); Blackburn v Sunderland (7.0); Newcastle v Nottm Forest (7.0); Sheffield Utd v Aston Villa; Wolverhampton v Huddersfield (7.0). Second division: Blackpool v Grimsby (7.0); Bolton v Oldham (7.0); Notts County v Burnley (7.0); Scunthorpe v Wigan (7.0); Stoke v Preston (7.0); West Bromwich v York (7.0); Bradford v Barnsley; Mansfield v Port Vale (7.0).
OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Brighton v Crystal Palace (7.15); Portsmouth v Norwich (7.0); Oxford Utd v Reading; Swindon v West Ham.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Dawlish; Torrington v Bideford; Chard v Paulton.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Felixstowe; Thetford v Halstead.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: East Midlands v Barbarians (at Northampton RFC).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Welsh Universities v English Universities (at Newbridge, 7.0); British Polytechnics v British Colleges (at Morley, 2.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Wakefield v Sheffield. Second division: Halifax v Whitehaven.

HOCKEY

COMMERCIAL UNION UAU FINALS: Women: Loughborough v Birmingham (Reading 1.30). Men: Exeter v Bristol (Reading, 3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English women's national indoor championships (Lawson Park, Bedford).
RUGBY UNION: Christ College, Brecon, 450th anniversary sevens.

THE TIMES

SPORT

● RACING 38, 39
● BOXING 40
● FOOTBALL 41

Hanley is chasing his American dream

By Richard Wetherell and Keith Macklin

ELLERY Hanley, arguably the best rugby league player in the world, is caught between making a fortune — perhaps as much as £50,000 a match — in helping to launch American football in Britain, and making a lesser sum seeing out his contract with Wigan rugby league club.

The Monarchs, who will be based at Wembley, announced yesterday that Hanley, who has captained Great Britain on a record 19 occasions, would be joining them next month for the inaugural season of the World League of American Football (WLAF).

It was maximum publicity at minimum risk. If Hanley succeeds, all will be well; if not, little will have been lost because the ambitious and audacious move will have sold seats.

However, Wigan's directors were not sure of when Hanley would be released. They met last night to discuss ways of avoiding a contractual dispute with their captain.

Monarchs claimed Hanley would join them in training camp on Sunday and would play his first game on Easter Sunday against New York Knights. However, Wigan insisted they would hold Hanley rigidly to his contract, which expires in October, and they expected him to play for them on Sunday against Bradford Northern in the quarter-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman, said: "Clearly, Hanley's contractual obligations must be exclusively to Wigan, particularly with so many important games between now and the end of the season. We are not against Hanley playing American football in the close season and, in fact, would rather have him doing that in this country than slugging it out in rugby league in Australia."

Wigan do not appear to want Hanley to become the subject of a tug-of-war between Monarchs and themselves, with the inevitable result of the necessity for Wigan to take legal action against the player for breach of contract.

Wigan, while willing to search for an acceptable compromise, are unlikely to agree to Hanley playing American football on Easter Sunday since the holiday weekend is the most vital of the season, when Stones Bitter championship issues can be settled.

American football's interest in persuading Hanley into changing sports dates from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final last year. Several National Football League (NFL) representatives saw him lead Wigan to a devastating victory over Warrington. They also watched the Great Britain series against Australia in October and November.

A tentative offer from Bob Arum, the American boxing promoter, on behalf of the Los Angeles Rams, had already been put to Hanley. He was interested but his commitment to Wigan — with still a year to go on his contract — led him to reject this.

Three months ago, the Monarchs approached Hanley. Since then, a formula has been worked out between Wigan, Hanley and the Monarchs that is acceptable to all parties.

Stewart Parkinson, the Monarchs team manager, said Hanley had signed a standard WLAF contract, which calls for a basic salary of $20,000 (about £10,500) for position players. Bonuses could take a WLAF player's annual earnings to $100,000.

Parkinson described Hanley as a "latter-day Bo Jackson" — a reference to the player who combines playing American football for the Los Angeles Raiders and baseball with the Kansas City Royals.

Ambrose Mendy, the sports promoter, has taken an interest in Hanley and the Monarchs' offer. He said yesterday that he had checked through his American contacts, notably the ABC television channel, to establish whether the WLAF was a serious proposition.

Once he was satisfied, discussions had taken place between John Fitzpatrick, Hanley's lawyer, and Frank Platt and Fishwick, the Wigan lawyers. Clearance from Lindsay had been sought and given.

Hanley is not yet a true Monarch. Whether he is to be part of the 36-player squad will be decided when Larry Kennan, the Monarchs' head coach, sees him next week. Indeed, Hanley may never be a Monarch because of the enormous leap from rugby league to American football. However, if he did meet Kennan's approval, he would be regarded as on loan from Wigan for this season and only next year would he become a professional American footballer.

But if any leading British sportsman could make the leap to American football, it is Hanley. At the age of 29 and with 33 full Great Britain appearances, he could be anxious for a new challenge. He has intimated that this would be his last full season in rugby league.

His resilience in taking numerous tackles during a game will be essential. His ability to gain ground after an initial tackle already sets him apart from others in rugby league. This will be an essential part of his game, if he gains a place as a running back.

Ideally, Hanley would have shown his skills at the training camp in Orlando that started last week but the presence of some of the British press postponed that. Instead, he will meet his prospective team-mates at Wembley on Monday.

An intriguing aspect of the deal is Hanley's non-relationship with the media. Despite being captain of the Great Britain side which defeated Australia at Wembley last October, his words were not heard or read. This is a leading difference with the open house which journalists find in the United States, and one that the British press in Orlando found.

How far Hanley's commitment is to American football, the Monarchs and the WLAF may come at the end of April. The Monarchs' game against Raleigh-Durham at Wembley starts 24 hours after Hanley could be raising the Challenge Cup on behalf of Wigan.

Hanley: due to join Monarchs

Liverpool wait for Toshack to resolve dilemma

By Ian Ross

JOHN Toshack is expected to announce today whether or not he wishes to accept an invitation to succeed Kenny Dalglish as the football manager of Liverpool. There were signs last night, however, that he would reject the chance of a return to Anfield and pledge his immediate future to another of his former clubs, Real Sociedad.

Toshack is believed to have discussed the possibility of returning to Liverpool, whom he served with distinction as a player during the 1970s, when he spoke to Noel White, the Liverpool chairman, and Peter Robinson, the club's chief executive.

The former Welsh international forward, who was dismissed by Real Madrid in November, returned to his Swansea home earlier this week, increasing speculation that his appointment as Liverpool's eighth post-war manager was imminent.

His return to Wales to fulfil what was described as a long-standing business appointment prompted Liverpool hastily to cancel a meeting of the club's board of directors scheduled for Anfield on Monday morning.

Toshack, aged 41, yesterday refused to confirm or deny that he had entered into talks with the League champions. "Yes, I have heard what has been said in the last few days but I have nothing to say," he said.

Although he recently committed himself to a five-year contract with Real Sociedad, he does not assume the position of team coach there until July 1. Indications are that Liverpool would be prepared to discuss the question of compensation with the Spanish first division club.

Sociedad have been aware of Liverpool's interest for more than a week. They have made it clear that they will seek substantial financial remuneration if Liverpool's attempts to lure Toshack back to English football after a seven-year absence succeed.

About £1.5 million are believed to be the salary Toshack would collect during the course of his contract with the San Sebastian club but, privately at least, Liverpool are confident of negotiating a far lower settlement if the need arose.

Toshack readily acknowledges the debt he owes to Sociedad, who allowed him to leave to join Real Madrid in 1989, and who stepped forward with an immediate offer of employment after his dismissal.

White said that Liverpool's search for a manager would be enthusiastically conducted until a man deemed suitable to succeed Dalglish, who retired from football 13 days ago, was found.

"Our commitment to appoint the right man has surely never been in any doubt," he said. "We are religiously pursuing the matter in every direction and there is no weakening in our resolve to give our supporters the very best."

JOHN TOSHACK MBE

Age: 41.
Born: March 22 1949, Cardiff.
Club career: 1965: joined Cardiff City, for whom he made 162 league appearances, scoring 75 goals. 1970: moved to Liverpool for £110,000, making 236 appearances and scoring 95 goals. **Honours:** 1973: League championship, Uefa Cup. 1974: FA Cup. 1976: League championship, Uefa Cup. 1977: League championship, European Cup.

1978: joined Swansea City on a free transfer as player manager and took the club from the fourth to the first division in four seasons, for which he was awarded the MBE.

March 1984: dismissed by Swansea, for whom he made 63 league appearances, scoring 25 goals.

May 1984: Joined Sporting Lisbon as coach, taking them to runners up in the Portuguese League. **May 1985:** Resigned from Sporting and appointed manager of Real Sociedad. **Honours:** 1987: Spanish Cup. **May 1989:** appointed coach of Real Madrid. **Honours:** 1990: Spanish championship. Nov 1990: dismissed by Real Madrid. Returned to Sociedad as general manager and team manager elect.
International career: Debut: 1969 v West Germany (Frankfurt). 40 appearances, 13 goals.

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Mancunian welcome: The wind is enough to disturb the unruliest hairstyle as Valderrama, second from top, finds on Montpellier's arrival in Lancashire

Test epic may be ruined by incompetence

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, Kingston

COINCIDENCE and incompetence were potentially the ruin of a riveting Test match here yesterday, when inadequate covering eliminated the fourth day's play at Sabina Park for the second successive year.

Eight hours of overnight rain — the first to fall in Kingston for a month — was too much for the plastic sheets which serve as covers here, and a game which had the makings of an epic was heading for stalemate.

England's touring party of 12 months ago will recall the scenario well. After three days of the first Test in Kingston, they were on the brink of a famous victory, with West Indies only 29 runs ahead and eight second-innings wickets down.

Torrential rest-day rain defeated the covers, and the fourth day was lost amid much grumbling over desultory mopping-up efforts by the groundstaff. England suffered an agonising 24 hours before the weather allowed them to complete their win on the final morning.

Although the coincidence is bizarre, much more cricket remains in the game. With West Indies 80 runs on and only two wickets down, even a full last day is highly unlikely to produce a result. The covers had leaked in several places and patches of deep mud, more than a foot in diameter, were ugly evidence of inefficient protection.

David Archer and Steve Bucknor, the umpires, quickly advised the players of both teams to return to their hotel and after two inspections and some feverish repair work, play was abandoned shortlyt before teatime.

Remarkably, the biggest and most effective of the ground's covers had not even been used on the square overnight. Instead, it was covering the practice pitches near the boundary which, as Archer pointed out to the ground authorities, was a futile notion.

"We have told them that there is no point in covering practice pitches if it puts the game itself in jeopardy," Archer said. "We have instructed them in future to use the main cover over the other plastic sheets."

Debate will continue on this issue, which has done Jamaica's reputation as a Test venue further harm. But, with the damage done, neither captain was anxious for a premature resumption on a wet pitch, and understandably so.

WEST INDIES: First innings 264 (A L Logie 77 not out, P J L Dujon 59; C J McDermott 5 for 80, M G Hughes 4 for 67); Second innings 187 for 2 (D L Haynes 84).
AUSTRALIA: First innings 371 (D C Boon 109 not out, G R Marsh 69, M A Taylor 58; B P Patterson 5 for 83).

England A review, page 38

Badminton loses main sponsor

By Jenny MacArthur

WHITBREAD announced yesterday that its 30-year sponsorship of the Badminton horse trials, Britain's most important equestrian event, is to finish at the end of the year.

The surprise announcement from the sport's oldest and most respected sponsor comes at a particularly vulnerable time for equestrianism. Two of the sport's other leading events, Gatcombe horse trials and the Royal International Horse Show, are without a sponsor for this year.

Whitbread's decision to withdraw support was made because of the "changing nature" of its business. Paul Vaughan, the company's sponsorship director, said yesterday, at the company's headquarters in Chiswell Street: "The business has changed over recent years, particularly in its food and leisure retail operations, and this has led Whitbread to concentrate in future on a very few major corporate sponsorships such as the Whitbread round the world race, which starts again in 1993."

The termination of the contract brings to a close one of the most amicable and longest serving horse trials' sponsorships. The company first sponsored the Duke of Beaufort's Gloucestershire event in 1961 when its contribution was £500. Since then Badminton has grown beyond all recognition and now regularly attracts more than 200,000 spectators. Whitbread's last three-year sponsorship contract was for £1 million.

Although Raymond Brooks-Ward, of British Equestrian Promotions, is still struggling to find a sponsor for the Royal International, Gatcombe looks set to go ahead unsponsored. Hugh Thomas, the director of Badminton, is optimistic about his event's future.

"Badminton is the single most prestigious equestrian event that takes place each year . . . in most markets the best will find a purchaser."

Even with no sponsor the event, which costs around £800,000 to stage, "would run and would run well", Thomas said. If that happened, the British Horse Society, which receives the profits from Badminton, would have to content itself with less than the £150,000 it received after last year's event.

This year's Badminton, from May 2 to 5, for which the prize-money has been increased by 50 per cent with a first prize of £15,000, has attracted the top six riders from the World Equestrian Games held in Stockholm last summer. These include Blyth Tait, the world champion, and Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion, both from New Zealand, as well as two former world champions, Virginia Leng, of Great Britain and Bruce Davidson, of the United States.

Attendance bookings for the four-day event — which the Princess of Wales will visit on the Sunday — are well ahead of last year.

Robson can galvanise United

By Stuart Jones
Football correspondent

BRYAN Robson, who has already led Manchester United to the final of the Rumbelows Cup, tonight sets out on a more significant mission. In his first appearance in Europe for six years, he will be in charge of his club's attempt to qualify for the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Unavailable because of injury, Robson missed the first two rounds of the competition and was also absent during the defeat by Everton on Saturday. It was confirmed yesterday by Alex Ferguson, though, that he will return for the first leg of the quarter-final against Montpellier at Old Trafford.

It is as though United have been waiting until their captain had fully recovered from a damaged Achilles tendon before staging an occasion which could genuinely rekindle past glories. Their previous two ties, against undistinguished opposition, represented little more than dress rehearsals.

United's manager, who has lost Bruce and Webb but will be able to recall both Hughes and Phelan, recognises the importance of Robson's sheer presence. "He will be an inspiration not only to the team but also for the crowd," he said, "and he has the experience that we will need."

Ferguson, who long ago conceded that his side could not realistically compete for the title, appreciates that only by winning the trophy will United be assured of returning to the continent next season.

He has reiterated the need to avoid conceding a goal at home, but his optimism will be based more on potential French diffidence than on his own defence. Even though they are in the final of the Rumbelows Cup, United have let in 11 goals (including two by Halifax Town) in a dozen domestic ties this season.

The appalling pitch, which will resemble a mudflat before the start and a ploughed meadow by the end, is also sure to provoke errors. United should play on that and provide opportunities for Hughes, particularly through the pace of Sharp on the left flank, to build an advantage.

Sealey may have remained unbeaten in the competition so far but his record means little. United's victims (Pecsi Munkas, the Hungarians, in the first round, and Wrexham, of the fourth division, in the second) were scarcely able to mount an attack, let alone direct a shot in his direction.

Montpellier have confirmed their strength by knocking out PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch League leaders led by Bobby Robson, and Steaua Bucharest, the European Cup runners-up in 1989. But Henryk Kasperczak, their Polish manager, who watched United five times, was concerned by the evidence he saw. The typically furious tempo of the English game persuaded him to alter his usual tactics in Nice last Friday, but the experiment failed in a 2-0 defeat.

Consequently, he is likely to rely instead on the trusted system with Blanc, the League's second highest scorer behind Papin of Marseille, operating as the sweeper. He plays there for France.

The conditions will not suit Valderrama, the Colombian. The comparison with Gullitt is no longer realistic. The South American's loss of form was so dramatic that nobody showed any interest in signing him when he was made available at the end of last season.

Kasperczak is expected to select a more defensive line-up with Ziober, a fellow countryman who scored the lone decisive goal against Eindhoven, and Xuereb carrying the attack.

Confident AC Milan, page 41

Italy to use professional referees

FIFA has applauded the Italian football league for taking the lead in deciding to employ professional referees, and says it expects other countries to follow.

Sepp Blatter, the international football federation general secretary, who criticised refereeing standards at last year's World Cup, said: "Italy is acting as a guiding light for others by instituting professional referees.

"Success can, however, only be achieved if the referees themselves take that mental stride towards professionalism," he said in the Fifa newsletter issued this week.

The Italian football authorities decided last month to employ 40 professional referees for first and second division matches in the 1993-4 season. They will earn between 60 million lire (£27,500) and 100 million a year, train five times a week, but still be allowed to do other jobs.

Fifa has begun looking at ways of improving standards. Blatter said after last year's World Cup that in future all World Cup referees must be professionals and be able to speak English.